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Maternal, child health services expanded

The Guyana Ministry of Health has expanded Maternal and Child Health services at the Belladrum Health Centre and upgraded rehabilitation services at the Mahaicony Health Centre, improving access to care for residents and surrounding communities.

Mahaicony's refurbished Rehabilitation Department now includes dedicated spaces for speech therapy, audiology and occupational therapy, as well as larger physiotherapy rooms and a rehabilitation gym. At Belladrum, a new dental service will provide oral healthcare, particularly benefiting school-aged children, pregnant women and people living with non-communicable diseases.

These improvements support the Government's ongoing efforts to bring specialised healthcare closer to communities across Guyana.

Above, Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony joins staff in cutting the ribbon to open the expanded section at the Mahaicony Health Centre.



Guyana getting ready for the holidays

HUNDREDS of persons gathered on Main Street in Georgetown on Monday night for the Courts 2026 Christmas Light Up, making the official start of the festive season for many.

The event featured performances from local Guyanese artistes such as Steven Ramphal, Calvin Burnet and the Joro Dance Group (above), who engaged the crowd with live entertainment.

Every year, citizens anticipate the event, which has been an ongoing tradition for over a decade. The furniture giant, Courts Guyana Limited, welcomed hundreds of people to witness the Christmas lights as they were turned on, illuminating the street and surrounding areas.

Attendees of all ages were observed enjoying themselves, as well as marvelling at the light show.

The sound of the classic Christmas carols filled the air and children danced and played as they waited to see the "main man" of the night, and his helpers.

The event was a major hit for the children, who enjoyed the show and look forward to seeing Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, their helpers, and even the Grinch.

Children, as well as adults, were invited on stage to showcase their talents, with cash prizes, Courts vouchers and other giveaways up for grabs.

Main Street will open its holiday market this weekend on November 29.

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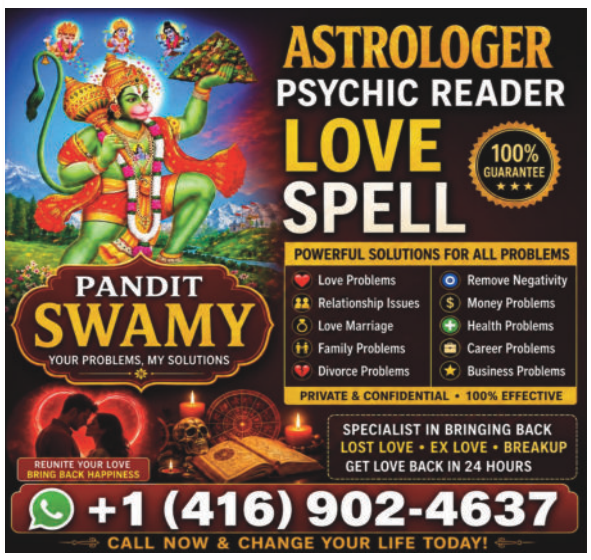

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Salad Tomato 沙律番茄 Reg:$ 2.99 — $1.38 LB



BAKERY

LFD mini bun 480g 黄油早餐包 Reg:$ 5.99 — 12 tin $4.99 EA



Santosh naan 500g 馕 Reg:$ 1.99 — 2/$2.00



Furlani garlic toast 638g 蒜香黄油包 Reg:$ 5.99 — $3.99 EA



Taiyo baumkuchen cake 65g 年轮蛋糕 Reg:$ 1.99 — 3/$3.00



Cedar Pita 阿拉伯皮塔饼 Reg:$1.79 — 99¢ EA



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Beef Neck Bone 牛颈骨 Reg: $3.29 — $2.29 LB SPECIAL



GROCERY

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Lee Assorted Biscuits 520g-700g Reg: $7.99 — $4.99 EA



Kopiko Coffee Candy Cappuccino Candy 120g Reg: $2.59 — $1.29 EA

Five Rivers Pure Honey 500g Reg: $6.99 — $3.29 EA

Jamaican Pride Butter Beans 398ml Reg: $1.99 — $1.29 EA

Marca Pina Soy Sauce 1000ml Reg: $4.99 — $2.29 EA

Mr.Brown Vanilla 350ml Reg: $3.99 — $1.99 EA

Grace Hominy Corn 400g Reg: $1.99 — 99¢ EA

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Frozen whole milkfish 整条牛奶鱼 Reg: $4.99/LB — $3.29 LB

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Sushi full menu

Sushi Menu

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Somersby Flavoure Cider Series 473ml — $3.59 EAC

Guyanese
DIASPORA DIGEST
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NEW LINDEN BRIDGE HONOURS FORMER PRESIDENT SAMUEL HINDS FOR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

PAGE 2



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and other officials walk across the newly constructed Linden bridge alongside former President Samuel Hinds, whose decades of public service are being honoured through the landmark infrastructure project.

US BACKS GUYANA AS GOVT RULES OUT BILATERAL TALKS ON ESSEQUIBO

PAGE 7



ERREA WITTU START-UP BRINGS GUYANA CLOSER TO 1.15 MILLION BARRELS IN DAILY OIL OUTPUT

PAGE 5



GUYEXPO ATTRACTS RECORD 350 EXHIBITORS, EXPANDS PLATFORM FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

PAGE 11



CANADA, CURAÇAO AND SEYCHELLES AMONG DESTINATIONS COVERED BY GUYANA'S NEW AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS

PAGE 17

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

NEW LINDEN BRIDGE OPENS UP ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES



The opening of the four-lane crossing

Residents and businesses in Linden are expected to benefit from easier movement of people and goods following the opening of a new four-lane bridge linking Mackenzie and Wismar, replacing a crossing that had restricted traffic to one direction at a time for nearly six decades.

The US$35 million Samuel Archibald Hinds River Bridge was officially commissioned by President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali. The 233-metre structure provides two lanes in each direction, along with separate pedestrian walkways and improved lighting.

For residents, the change means an end to the lengthy waits that motorists routinely faced on the former single-lane crossing, which was commissioned in 1967.

Eze Bonus welcomed the investment, describing the new bridge as one of the most significant improvements for the town, pointing to its potential to encourage commercial activity.

"The doors are open to business in Linden now, because we have a double-lane bridge, and that will make traffic more easier," he said.

Maylene Stephen, who has lived in Linden for more than 50 years, also welcomed the improved traffic flow, recalling the delays motorists experienced while waiting for vehicles travelling in the opposite direction to clear.

Samantha Moore highlighted the benefits for businesses transporting goods from interior and mining communities, noting that the previous bottlenecks frequently delayed workers and commercial operations.



The opening of the four-lane crossing

The project also includes 4.5 kilometres of connector roads, roundabouts, drainage and lighting, linking the bridge to the Soesdyke-Linden Highway and Linden-Mabura Road.

The improved crossing is expected to strengthen Linden's role as a gateway to the hinterland, making the movement of goods and services easier as transportation links expand.

NEW LINDEN BRIDGE HONOURS FORMER PRESIDENT SAMUEL HINDS FOR DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE



Samuel Hinds honoured as the new Linden bridge bears his name

Former President and Prime Minister Samuel Archibald Hinds has been honoured with the naming of Linden's new four-lane river bridge, recognising his decades of service in Guyana's political and public life.

President Ali announced the dedication as he commissioned the US$35 million crossing linking Mackenzie and Wismar, describing Hinds's contribution to the country as extraordinary.

"Samuel Hinds occupies a consequential place in Guyana's political and public life. His service has been extraordinary," the President said.

Hinds, who holds Guyana's highest national honour, the Order of Excellence, attended the ceremony with his wife, Yvonne Hinds.

A chemical engineer by profession, Hinds began his career in the bauxite industry before entering national politics. He stood alongside the late President, Dr Cheddi Jagan in the movement to restore democratic governance and became Prime Minister following the People's Progressive Party/Civic's victory at the 1992 elections.

He assumed the presidency in March 1997 following Jagan's death and continued serving as Prime Minister under Presidents Janet Jagan, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and Donald Ramotar until 2015.

President Ali also spoke of Hinds's personal influence on his own leadership, saying the former head of state had taught him that leadership was about accepting responsibility rather than simply occupying an office.

"This bridge will carry thousands of people across the river but with your name attached to it, it will carry a story of service, commitment, and an enduring connection to the people of this region," he told Hinds.

The dedication also extends to the bridge approaches. The access road on the Mackenzie side was named in honour of former Deputy Prime Minister and parliamentarian Robert Corbin, while the Wismar approach bears the name of current Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips.

The President said the dedications recognise individuals who have contributed to Region Ten and Guyana's development.



The Mackenzie access road wwas dedicated to Robert Corbin and the Wismar approach to Prime Minister Mark Phillips

NEW BERBICE BRIDGE MOVES TOWARDS CONTRACT AWARD; GUYANA PREPARES FOR SURINAME TALKS

Two major bridge projects could reshape transportation and cross-border connectivity in the coming years, with Guyana targeting a contract award for the new Berbice River Bridge before the end of 2026 and preparing for further negotiations with Suriname on a Corentyne River crossing.

President Ali said technical evaluations, financing arrangements and contractual terms for the new four-lane, high-span Berbice bridge are being finalised, with seven pre-qualified firms having submitted price quotations.

The new structure is intended to replace the existing floating bridge. Government has already acquired approximately 50 properties on the eastern bank to facilitate the project.

A contract award is being targeted before year-end, following earlier efforts to settle financing and agree on the final project cost. The 2026 National Budget allocated approximately $12.2 billion for the Berbice Bridge and other major bridge projects.

Meanwhile, Guyana is working to schedule another high-level bilateral meeting with Suriname in Guyana to advance discussions on the proposed Corentyne River Bridge.

Estimated to cost US$236 million, the 3.1-kilometre crossing would connect Moleson Creek in Guyana to South Drain in Suriname, creating another direct land link between the neighbouring countries.

President Ali said the next meeting would address outstanding challenges, financing opportunities and other issues surrounding the project.

The two developments form part of wider efforts to improve domestic transportation networks and strengthen Guyana's connections with regional markets, with potential implications for trade, investment and cross-border movement.



Four-lane Berbice bridge closer to contract award as Corentyne talks resume

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

MORE THAN 65 BUSINESSES JOIN GOVT PUSH TO LOWER PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES



The State House meeting with the poultry farmers, distributors, retailers and suppliers

More than 65 wholesalers and distributors have signed on to a government initiative to reduce the cost of chicken, beef, mutton and eggs, with new price limits expected to bring relief to households across Guyana.

Under the arrangement announced by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, chicken will immediately retail for no more than $450 per pound, while beef will be capped at $800 per pound, mutton at $1,200 and eggs at $1,400 per tray. The latter three prices are expected to take effect in the coming weeks.

The Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) will supply chicken to participating wholesalers and distributors at no more than $380 per pound, with retailers, including supermarkets and market vendors, required to observe the $450 consumer price ceiling.

The initiative is designed to make essential proteins more affordable while strengthening local production and creating a more reliable supply chain. The number of participating businesses is expected to increase significantly.

To support producers, President Ali has also announced negotiations with commercial banks for a four per cent short-term credit facility, offering farmers lower borrowing costs than the six to nine per cent rates currently available. The proposed 30-day facility would be accompanied by requirements for prompt payment to farmers.

A coordinated purchasing system will consolidate demand from public institutions, wholesalers and retailers, creating more predictable markets and opportunities for bulk purchasing of feed, veterinary supplies, chicks and other agricultural inputs.

Government also plans to establish a three-month supply buffer, using imports only to address verified domestic shortages while local production expands.

Participating retailers will be required to pass negotiated savings to consumers, with published outlets and price dashboards intended to improve transparency.

BUDGET 2027 TAKES SHAPE WITH MINISTRIES SUBMITTING PLANS AND PRIORITIES



Ministry of Finance reviewing proposals for Guyana's 2027 development agenda

Guyana has begun laying the groundwork for its 2027 National Budget, with the Ministry of Finance reviewing proposals from government ministries as the administration prepares its next round of programmes, projects and investments.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh told the Department of Public Information (DPI) that the 2027 Budget Circular has been issued and submissions are already coming in, outlining ministries' proposed policies, plans and programmes for the year.

The process will also involve consultations with government agencies, the private sector and other stakeholders, helping to shape spending priorities and the country's development agenda for 2027.

Dr Singh said the Government is simultaneously working to complete the execution of the 2026 Budget while advancing preparations for the next fiscal programme.

He identified the People's Progressive Party Civic's five-year manifesto as the administration's principal policy framework, stressing that delivering on its commitments remains the Government's foremost obligation.

"Our first and foremost obligation, which we take extremely seriously, is to discharge all the commitments that we made in the manifesto," Dr Singh stated.

The proposals will be assessed against these commitments, alongside ongoing monitoring of economic conditions locally and internationally, as the Government determines its priorities for the year ahead.

GOVT NEARING AGREEMENTS FOR GAS BOTTLING AND FERTILISER PROJECTS



Government moves closer to agreements for two gas-based industries

The government is finalising arrangements for two proposed gas-based industries at Wales, West Bank Demerara, as it moves to expand the use of Guyana's natural gas resources beyond electricity generation.

President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali disclosed the progress during a news conference at the Office of the President, saying an announcement on the gas bottling and fertiliser projects could come shortly.

"Very soon you will have great news. I think we are [now] finalising [an] arrangement and that is one of the projects I want Guyanese to be involved in," he said, adding that he would address the projects in the coming days.

The proposed Guyana Gas Bottling and Logistics Company, estimated to cost US$40 million, is structured as a public-private partnership and would bottle and distribute liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for domestic use. It is intended to meet local demand, previously estimated by the government at approximately three million 20-pound cylinders annually.

The planned US$300 million ammonia and urea plant would use up to 20 million cubic feet of natural gas daily to produce about 300,000 tonnes of fertiliser annually for local and regional markets.

The projects are intended to reduce reliance on imported cooking gas and fertiliser, while creating opportunities for downstream investment and lowering production costs, particularly in agriculture.

GUYANA JOINS REGIONAL PUSH TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN CARIBBEAN HEALTH SECURITY

Guyana is strengthening its role in regional efforts to prevent and contain public health threats through closer cooperation with human, animal and environmental health authorities across the Caribbean.

The country joined 13 other Caribbean nations at the third One Health Multidisciplinary Workshop, hosted by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in Trinidad and Tobago. The two-day forum brought together approximately 100 specialists, including epidemiologists, laboratory directors, veterinary officers and environmental health professionals, alongside representatives of 14 regional and international partner agencies.

The initiative seeks to improve the region's ability to prevent, detect and respond to foodborne diseases and infections transmitted between animals and humans, which can threaten public health, agricultural production, food security and economic activity.

A major feature of the workshop was a demonstration of CARPHA's Regional Integrated Early Warning and Surveillance System (RIEWSS), particularly its Foodborne Diseases and Zoonoses Surveillance Module.

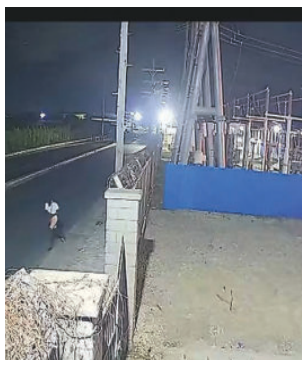
The digital platform is designed to bring together information from human and animal health services, laboratories and environmental surveillance systems, helping countries identify unusual disease patterns, exchange intelligence and coordinate investigations.

Participants also reviewed national progress in implementing One Health strategies, assessed gaps in surveillance and laboratory capacity, and considered practical measures to improve cross-border information-sharing.



Guyana joins Caribbean effort to improve disease detection and response

NO ESCAPE FOR THOSE BEHIND GPL SUBSTATION ATTACK - PRESIDENT WARNS



CCTV captured image

President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has vowed that everyone involved in the attempted attack on the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) substation at Good Hope, East Coast Demerara, will be pursued, as six people are in custody and investigators probe an alleged wider plot against critical infrastructure and public facilities.

In a national security address, the President disclosed that CCTV footage captured two individuals throwing Molotov cocktails, commonly known as channa bombs, at the facility at approximately 22:45 hours on November 10. The individuals appeared to target an electrical transformer before fleeing. No damage to the facility was reported.

The investigation has since widened, with police reporting that information obtained points to alleged plans to attack other facilities, including additional power infrastructure, Umana Yana and schools.

Police also disclosed that another GPL substation in Georgetown was allegedly targeted on the same night as the Good Hope incident.

President Ali had described the incident as a serious attack on critical national infrastructure, warning that attempts to destroy essential facilities could endanger lives and disrupt public services.

"I want to make it clear that all perpetrators, including intellectual authors, will be pursued relentlessly with the fullness of the law," he declared.

Investigations are continuing to establish the identities, roles and possible involvement of others in the alleged operation.

INTELLIGENCE POINTS TO COORDINATED THREATS AGAINST CITIZENS AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

President Ali has warned of intelligence pointing to a possible coordinated criminal conspiracy targeting citizens, public and private property, essential services and economic activity, as authorities intensify efforts to counter threats to national security.



President Ali during the address

The President said credible information gathered by local authorities, alongside international partners, suggests possible links between inflammatory statements circulating on social media and planned criminal activities.

"Intelligence further indicates the possible existence of a centrally coordinated conspiracy intended to harm or intimidate individuals, destroy or damage public and private property, disrupt essential services and economic activity, and create disorder and undermine national security," he said.

President Ali also disclosed intelligence suggesting the possible movement of senior members of the terrorist-designated criminal organisation Tren de Aragua.

He warned that everyone involved in planning, directing, financing, inciting, assisting or carrying out criminal acts would be held accountable, cautioning against attempts to obstruct roadways, sabotage infrastructure, threaten public officials and private citizens, or use social media to encourage violence.

While reaffirming citizens' constitutional rights to freedom of expression and peaceful protest, the President stressed that these protections do not extend to violence, intimidation, destruction of property or criminal incitement.

"Guyana will not be allowed to become a haven for organised criminal networks nor will violence, intimidation, or sabotage be permitted to undermine our national security, economic development, or the safety of our citizens," he declared.

He urged citizens to reject calls for violence, remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement by reporting suspicious activities.

LOCAL ELECTIONS AWAIT RESOLUTION OF OPPOSITION REPRESENTATION DISPUTE ON GECOM



No election date yet as dispute over GECOM composition persists

Guyana's next Local Government Elections remain without a confirmed date as a dispute over opposition representation on the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) continues to complicate preparations, despite the government's stated readiness to proceed.

President Ali said the administration has completed what it can to prepare for the polls but maintains that outstanding matters involving the opposition must first be resolved.

"The courts are there for a purpose and if any stakeholder believes that they need something to be analysed or adjudicated upon... they can use the arm of the judiciary. I can say to you, as a government, we are ready," the President told reporters.

The disagreement centres on GECOM's three opposition-nominated seats. Following the September 2025 General and Regional Elections, We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) emerged as the main opposition party, replacing A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) in that position. However, the three commissioners appointed under the previous opposition leadership remain on the commission.

GECOM has not held formal meetings since September 2025, with the unresolved question of its composition affecting its deliberative operations. The commission's secretariat continues to carry out administrative functions.

The 2026 National Budget allocated $6.9 billion to GECOM for administrative preparations, signalling funding for the electoral process even as institutional questions remain unresolved.

At the June 2023 Local Government Elections, the PPP/C won 66 of the country's 80 local authority areas, while APNU secured 14.

President Ali said opposition stakeholders must determine how to address their differences, pointing to previous periods when several parties made up the parliamentary opposition.

Until the representation dispute is settled, the timing of the next local polls remains uncertain.

PROCESS BEGINS TO RESTORE POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION AFTER EXPIRY OF PREVIOUS BODY'S TERM

The process to restore the Police Service Commission (PSC), the constitutional body responsible for appointing and disciplining senior police officers, is underway, President Ali announced.

Speaking at a media conference, the President said Attorney General, Mohabir Anil Nandlall and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Gail Teixeira have begun the necessary work, describing the reconstitution as a priority.

"It is in the interest of the government and the Guyanese people to have all the constitutional commissions fully functional," he said.

Appointments to the commission require structured engagement between the executive and opposition leadership, with formal correspondence channelled through the relevant ministers.



Reconstitution of Police Service Commission identified as government priority

The PSC oversees appointments and disciplinary matters involving police officers above the rank of Inspector, making it an important component of the country's law enforcement accountability framework.

The previous commission was sworn in on May 31, 2022, under the chairmanship of the late Bishop Patrick Findlay. Under Article 210 of Guyana's Constitution, members serve three-year terms.

The renewed process is aimed at restoring the constitutional body's full functioning and oversight responsibilities.

ERREA WITTU START-UP BRINGS GUYANA CLOSER TO 1.15 MILLION BARRELS IN DAILY OIL OUTPUT

Guyana's daily oil production is expected to increase to approximately 1.15 million barrels following the start of production from the Errea Wittu floating production vessel, marking the launch of the country's fifth offshore development in the Stabroek Block.

The Government of Guyana announced first oil from the vessel, which will produce up to 250,000 barrels per day and raise national output from just over 900,000 barrels daily.

Built by Japanese shipbuilder MODEC, Errea Wittu is the company's first FPSO facility in Guyana. The vessel is located approximately 200 kilometres offshore and has storage capacity for around two million barrels of crude oil.

Its facilities can process up to 540 million cubic feet of associated gas daily and support water injection of up to 350,000 barrels per day.



Fifth offshore project comes on stream as Guyana expands oil production

The Uaru Development combines resources from the Snoek, Mako and Uaru fields, with production and injection activities supported by 44 wells across as many as 10 drill centres. The Uaru Petroleum Production Licence was granted on April 27, 2023.

Errea Wittu joins the Liza Destiny, Liza Unity, Prosperity and ONE GUYANA as the latest FPSO operating offshore Guyana. Its name is derived from a Warrau word meaning "abundance".

The government said the expansion is expected to generate further investment, employment and opportunities for local businesses, while supporting growth across other industries.

It also reaffirmed its commitment to managing petroleum resources responsibly, with sustainable development and environmental stewardship remaining priorities.

LONGTAIL APPROVAL BRINGS GUYANA CLOSER TO GAS-BASED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Guyana's plans to expand natural gas use beyond electricity generation have moved a step closer, following approval of the US$12.5 billion Longtail offshore development, the country's first non-associated gas project.

The development is expected to support plans for a second offshore Gas-to-Energy pipeline and a proposed natural gas industrial site in Berbice, where the government has identified opportunities for fertilizer production, alumina and mineral processing, data centres and other energy-intensive industries.



US$12.5B Longtail project approved

The Ministry of Natural Resources announced approval of the Longtail Field Development Plan and issuance of a Petroleum Production Licence to ExxonMobil Guyana Limited and its co-venturers, Hess Guyana Exploration Limited and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited.

Located in the Stabroek Block, the project will target nine reservoirs and use a new floating production, storage and offloading vessel with capacity to handle approximately 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas daily and produce up to 250,000 barrels of condensate per day.

Development will involve 27 production wells and 18 gas injection wells, with first production anticipated before the end of 2030. Over its projected 30-year production period, the project is expected to produce approximately 776 million barrels of condensate.

The development will include gas reinjection capabilities and facilities for eventual exports. Its production licence also requires studies on gas utilisation, export timelines, reservoir performance and marketing opportunities, while ensuring the vessel's design accommodates future gas exports.

The proposed Berbice industrial site is intended to use increased gas supplies to attract investment and support new industries, potentially creating employment and business opportunities while broadening economic activity beyond petroleum production.

MINISTRY REJECTS CLAIMS LONGTAIL WILL RETURN GUYANA TO 12.5% SHARE OF OIL PRODUCTION



The Ministry of Natural Resources has disputed claims that Guyana's share of Stabroek Block production will return to 12.5 per cent following approval of the Longtail development, while acknowledging that expenditure on new projects can affect the country's petroleum earnings.

Responding to a November 15 Kaieteur News report, the ministry explained that the production-sharing agreement allows contractors to recover up to 75 per cent of production against eligible petroleum costs. The remaining production, known as profit oil, is shared equally between Guyana and the co-venturers. Guyana also receives a two per cent royalty.

When the full cost-recovery ceiling is used, Guyana receives 12.5 per cent of production as profit oil, in addition to its royalty. However, when recoverable costs are lower, a larger share of production becomes available for sharing, increasing Guyana's earnings.

The ministry acknowledged that costs from new developments can be recovered across the Stabroek Block, potentially reducing the profit oil available to Guyana. It stressed, however, that approval of a project does not mean its entire development cost is immediately added to the cost bank.

With Longtail expected to begin production in 2030, expenditure will be incurred progressively during the years of construction and development, rather than being charged in full at the point of approval.

The ministry therefore rejected the report's suggestion that the project would return Guyana to the 12.5 per cent profit-oil share associated with the period when the maximum cost-recovery ceiling was being used.

"There will be a minimal drop in profit oil. It will not go back to 12.5%," Natural Resources Minister Vickram Bharrat told Kaieteur News, according to the ministry's statement.

It said Guyana's share will fluctuate according to the costs actually incurred and recovered, maintaining that the impact of new developments should be assessed against recoverable expenditure rather than the maximum limit permitted under the agreement.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to monitoring costs and providing information on the country's petroleum production and revenues.

FOUR GUYANESE CHILDREN RECEIVE SPECIALISED HEART SURGERY IN INDIA

Four Guyanese children have successfully undergone specialised heart surgery at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in India, following referrals arranged through the Government of Guyana.

A fifth child was assessed by specialists, who determined that the condition was too complex for surgery.

The Government fully funded the children's medical treatment, airfare and accommodation, including arrangements for an accompanying parent. The intervention reflects continued efforts to help young patients access specialised medical care that may not be available locally, while easing the financial burden on their families.



Government-funded treatment gives four children access to heart surgery in India

30 BRITISH COMPANIES HEADING TO GUYANA - *TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES IN ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION, HEALTHCARE AND TRANSPORT*

Guyanese businesses are being encouraged to look beyond attracting foreign investors and position themselves for international expansion as approximately 30 British business representatives prepare to visit Guyana later this month.

The trade mission, organised as part of activities by the British Chamber of Commerce Guyana (BritCham-Guyana), is expected to open opportunities for commercial partnerships, financing and knowledge exchange across several productive sectors.



The press conference at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel

Guyana's Chief Investment Officer, Dr Peter Ramsaroop, said the country must ensure local companies are equipped to participate in international projects and compete in overseas markets, rather than simply benefit from foreign businesses entering the domestic economy.

Speaking at a press conference at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, he pointed to £3.5 billion in financing opportunities available through UK Export Finance, which could help Guyanese businesses pursue investments and expand their operations.

He identified manufacturing, agro-processing and other productive industries as areas where stronger partnerships could support local business growth.

Deputy British High Commissioner Liam McShane said the visiting delegation would connect UK companies with Guyanese businesses and stakeholders, particularly in transport, aviation, urban development and infrastructure.

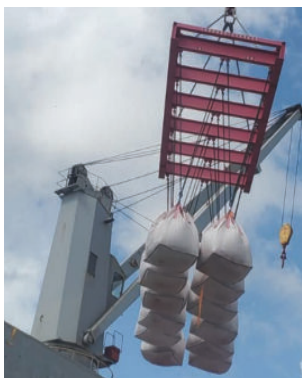
He noted that stronger commercial relationships could generate employment, improve services and facilitate the transfer of technical expertise.

The delegation will include companies involved in energy, construction, engineering, healthcare, digitalisation, transport, shipping and professional services.

The visit will also coincide with a BritCham-Guyana Gala Dinner on November 25, featuring senior government and business representatives, including Finance Minister, Dr Ashni Singh and ExxonMobil Guyana's President, Alistair Routledge.

The mission comes as Guyana marks its 60th Independence Anniversary, with both countries seeking to deepen commercial ties and translate growing investment interest into wider opportunities for local businesses.

GUYANA DRIVES CARIBBEAN EXPORT GROWTH, ATTRACTS 78% OF REGIONAL FDI INCREASE



Guyana's exports climb 28.9% as oil reshapes Caribbean trade landscape

Guyana accounted for nearly two-thirds of all goods exports from the Caribbean in 2025, while capturing more than three-quarters of the region's increase in foreign direct investment (FDI), underscoring the country's growing influence in regional and international trade.

The findings are contained in the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) 2026 Trade and Integration Monitor, which highlights the scale of Guyana's economic expansion and its increasing weight in the Caribbean economy.

Guyana recorded US$23.2 billion in goods exports last year, a 20.8 per cent increase over 2024, representing 62 per cent of the Caribbean's total exports.

That momentum continued into the first half of 2026, when Guyana's exports grew by a further 28.9 per cent, helping drive overall Caribbean export growth to 19.1 per cent. Guyana and Suriname were identified as the region's principal contributors, reflecting the growing influence of petroleum production on regional trade.

The investment figures are equally significant. Average annual FDI inflows into Guyana rose from US$254 million during 2012–2014 to US$8.281 billion between 2023 and 2025. As a share of gross domestic product, inflows increased from 6.2 per cent to 37.4 per cent.

Guyana also accounted for 78.1 per cent of the increase in foreign investment entering the Caribbean. Its accumulated foreign investment stock climbed from US$2.552 billion to US$34.252 billion across the same periods.

The IDB, however, highlighted the country's exposure to international commodity price movements as petroleum becomes increasingly important to its export profile. Between January and August 2026, commodity price movements generated a positive trade-balance impact equivalent to 8.3 per cent of GDP.

The report also recorded a 27.6 per cent decline in goods imports during the first half of 2026, following a 41.3 per cent increase in 2025.

The findings position Guyana as a major force in Caribbean trade, while highlighting the importance of managing the opportunities and vulnerabilities accompanying its rapid economic transformation.

GOVT ADVANCES DIASPORA BOND PLANS TO CHANNEL OVERSEAS INVESTMENT INTO GROWING ECONOMY

Guyanese living abroad could soon have a new way to invest directly in their home country's expanding economy, with the government advancing plans for a dedicated diaspora bond.

President Ali announced that Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, has been tasked with developing the bond's terms and investment framework.

"The diaspora has a great interest in investing in opportunities in Guyana," the President said, pointing to growing interest among overseas Guyanese in contributing financially to national development.

The proposed instrument is expected to provide a structured avenue for diaspora members with the financial means to participate in investment opportunities emerging from Guyana's economic expansion.

President Ali said the government is examining similar arrangements used by other countries to determine an appropriate model for Guyana.

The initiative could create another channel for overseas Guyanese to maintain an economic connection with home while participating in the country's development.



Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally participating in the Guyana Diaspora Forum 2026 – New York Edition, held under the theme "Bridging Generations, Building Guyana

PRESIDENT URGES GENEROSITY AS SALVATION ARMY LAUNCHES ANNUAL KETTLE DRIVE

President Ali is calling on Guyanese, particularly members of the business community, to support the Salvation Army's annual Christmas Kettle Campaign and help bring relief to vulnerable families.

Addressing the campaign's launch, the President said the spirit of Christmas should be reflected in acts of kindness and generosity rather than material possessions and celebrations.

"The true spirit of Christmas is not measured by the presents beneath the Christmas tree... It is measured above all by the kindness we extend to others, particularly those whose circumstances are difficult," he said.

Funds raised through the initiative support thousands of people through the organisation's year-round humanitarian programmes, including emergency relief, shelter, rehabilitation and assistance to individuals facing hardship.



President Ali commended the Salvation Army for its continued work in Guyana, particularly its drug rehabilitation programmes and efforts to help vulnerable people rebuild their lives.

US BACKS GUYANA AS GOVT RULES OUT BILATERAL TALKS ON ESSEQUIBO

Guyana has received renewed assurances of support from the United States and backing from members of the US Congress, as the government maintains that the border controversy with Venezuela must be settled through the International Court of Justice (ICJ), with a ruling anticipated as early as the first quarter of 2027.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hugh Todd reaffirmed Guyana's position in an address to the nation, ruling out bilateral negotiations over the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award and insisting that the country will not deviate from the judicial process.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Guyana, Hugh Todd

His remarks follow reports that a former senior US State Department official had raised the possibility of territorial discussions between Guyana and Venezuela, including proposals that could have placed part of Essequibo under Venezuelan control.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had previously clarified that Washington's position remained unchanged following discussions between Guyanese officials and the US State Department in September 2026, with the United States reaffirming its support for the ICJ proceedings.

Minister Todd said Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud had firmly rejected any alternative to the court process during discussions with the former US official.

"He, the Foreign Secretary, was very, very definitive that Guyana would only pursue the result of the Court," the minister stated.

He also pointed to a subsequent statement from the US Embassy in Georgetown reaffirming Washington's support, while stressing that Guyana recognises the ICJ as the competent authority under Article 4(2) of the 1966 Geneva Agreement.

"Guyana has been very clear and very firm that we will not hold any bilateral discussions with Venezuela with regard to their controversy over the 1899 Arbitral Award. Guyana will not waver from our position," Minister Todd affirmed.

The government's position has also received public support from US lawmakers. Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee declared on X: **"Guyana's sovereign territory is not the Trump administration's to trade away to Venezuela's interim government."**

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who represents Florida's 25th District, home to a significant Guyanese diaspora, also condemned the reported discussions, stating: **"Guyana's territory belongs to Guyana. Not Chevron, not Delcy, and definitely not Trump."**

She criticised what she described as a betrayal of a democratic ally in favour of Venezuela's dictatorship, accusing the administration of prioritising oil deals over democracy and international law.

Guyana is seeking confirmation that the 1899 Arbitral Award established a valid and binding boundary, with public hearings on the merits concluding at the ICJ in The Hague on May 11, 2026.

Minister Todd urged Guyanese to remain patient as the country awaits the ruling, while maintaining confidence in the judicial process and focusing on the future of a sovereign and independent Guyana.

GUYANA'S LATEST PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS:

BILLIONS IN DEVELOPMENT SPENDING, $100,000 GRANTS AND MAJOR REFORMS

From major infrastructure and social spending proposals to the rollout of $100,000 cash grants and new legislative measures, the National Assembly's November sittings placed a range of issues affecting Guyanese under the spotlight.

The debates covered everything from public finances and former presidents' benefits to vaping restrictions, alternative sentencing and the regulation of emergency medical services.

From billions in infrastructure and social spending to tighter controls on vaping, new sentencing options and stronger oversight of emergency medical services, the National Assembly's November sittings brought several decisions and proposals with implications for Guyanese at home and abroad.

MORE THAN 620,000 GUYANESE RECEIVE $100,000 GRANTS

More than 620,000 Guyanese have received the Government's $100,000 cash grant, putting more than $62 billion directly into the hands of citizens and providing a substantial injection into household spending and the wider economy.

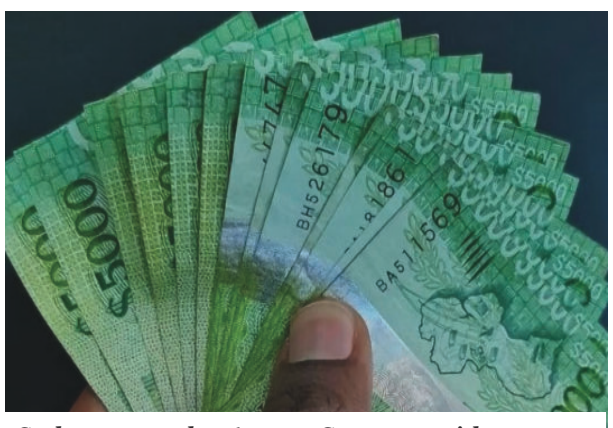
Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, told the National Assembly that 620,255 grants had been processed as of November 17, with the Government seeking additional funding to accommodate outstanding applications.

The number of registrations has exceeded the allocation initially approved by Parliament, which stood at $62.5 billion. Consequently, Government is seeking supplementary resources to meet the additional demand, including $1 billion under the latest supplementary estimates to assist with payments to remaining registrants.

The programme is also accelerating the use of formal banking services. Of the grants processed, 392,645 were transferred directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts, representing more than six in every 10 payments. The remaining beneficiaries received their grants by cheque.

Dr. Singh encouraged recipients who opted for cheques to open bank accounts, arguing that electronic transfers provide a faster and more secure way of receiving Government payments.

The initiative, announced in the 2026 National Budget by President Ali, is available to Guyanese aged 18 and older.



Cash grant reaches 620,255 Guyanese, with thousands more applications being processed

$89.8 BILLION MORE SOUGHT FOR ROADS, ENERGY, PENSIONS AND PUBLIC SERVICES



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

An additional $89.8 billion is being channelled towards expanded infrastructure programmes, electricity support, pensions and essential public services, as the Government seeks parliamentary approval for supplementary expenditure to keep major projects and social commitments moving.

The proposed allocations, presented by Minister Singh, cover a wide range of national priorities, with some of the largest provisions targeting public infrastructure and energy security.

The Ministry of Public Works accounts for $27.4 billion, covering an expanded programme of road rehabilitation, hinterland access roads, the Linden–Mabura Road, the Kurupukari Bridge and sea and river defence works.

The sum of $24.7 billion more is being sought under the Office of the Prime Minister for the Gas-to-Energy Project, one of the country's largest ongoing infrastructure investments.

The proposed spending also includes $11.3 billion to support electricity companies facing elevated fuel costs, including $8 billion for Guyana Power and Light Inc. The support is intended to prevent international fuel-price increases from being passed on to consumers through higher electricity tariffs.

Since the war began at the end of February, oil prices climbed from approximately US$71 per barrel to a peak above US$144 in April. By the end of October, prices remained roughly 67 per cent above pre-war levels.

Other allocations include $10 billion for old-age pension and public assistance beneficiaries, $1.6 billion for the expanded programme at Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA), $809 million for Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, $411.8 million for the Guyana Prison Service, $34.7 million for the Guyana Police Force, and $50.3 million for the Board of Industrial Training.

The proposed allocations also include emergency funding for repairs to the Guyana School of Agriculture and increased security costs at the Ministry of Education.



Roads, electricity and social support dominate $89.8 billion supplementary spending plan

NEW BILL SEEKS EQUAL TREATMENT AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FORMER PRESIDENTS

The Government is seeking to restore a consistent framework of lifetime benefits for Guyana's former presidents, ensuring that those who have served as Head of State receive appropriate support, security and care after leaving office, regardless of political affiliation.

The Former Presidents (Benefits and Other Facilities) Bill 2026, moved for its second reading by Minister Singh, proposes repealing the 2015 legislation and reinstating the broader framework established under the 2009 Act.

Defending the measure during debate in the National Assembly, Singh said the proposed changes would



Member of Parliament, Sanjeev Datadin

address differences in the arrangements currently applicable to former presidents and establish greater certainty and consistency in how the country recognises those who have held its highest constitutional office.

He explained that the 2009 legislation placed benefits previously provided at the Government's discretion on a statutory footing, establishing a defined framework for continued assistance after a president demits office.

The proposed benefits cover utilities, household assistance, clerical and technical support, medical care, security, state-owned vehicles and other facilities. These are separate from the pension to which a former president is entitled.

Dr. Singh also explained that the restrictions introduced under the 2015 legislation had resulted in different arrangements for former heads of state.



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Priya Manickchand

He noted that a court had determined that the restrictions could not retrospectively diminish the benefits of former Presidents Samuel Hinds, Bharrat Jagdeo and Donald Ramotar, while former President David Granger became the first former president covered by the later framework.

The proposed legislation would bring Granger under the same broader arrangements already applicable to the three former PPP/C presidents.

Local Government and Regional Development Minister, Priya Manickchand supported the restoration of the framework, arguing that former presidents should receive appropriate care and protection irrespective of their political differences.

She questioned whether rigid limits on security personnel could adequately address changing security threats and said the Government had not imposed caps on Granger's utility and healthcare expenses.

Dr. Singh underscored the principle behind the proposed changes, stating: "When we honour a former president, we honour ourselves."

The debate also addressed the financial implications of the proposed arrangements and the need to balance appropriate support with responsible public spending.

The Bill was not passed before the Assembly adjourned shortly after 2 a.m. on November 19. Debate is scheduled to resume when Parliament reconvenes on November 23.

GOVT ADJUSTS FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS TO KEEP MAJOR ENERGY AND AIRPORT PROJECTS ON TRACK

Government has adjusted two major infrastructure financing arrangements to protect construction timelines and ensure funding remains accessible as the country advances its Gas-to-Energy Project and the expansion of CJIA.

Minister Singh, tabled four amendments covering financing facilities provided by the Export-Import Bank of the United States (US EXIM) and Banco Santander, S.A.

Two amendments



Gas-to-Energy and CJIA projects get greater flexibility under amended financing agreements

relate to the US EXIM credit agreement supporting the Gas-to-Energy Project, while the other two concern the financing facility for the new CJIA arrivals terminal.

For the energy project, the changes simplify Government reimbursement requests and extend the facility's final disbursement date. This is intended to ensure financing remains available throughout construction and commissioning under the originally secured terms.

The airport financing involves a €61.43 million facility backed by UK Export Finance and signed on June 12, 2026.

Its amendments streamline payment requests and fee schedules to align with Government procedures while extending the deadline for meeting first-drawdown conditions. This allows the first disbursement to proceed and makes the release of funds more predictable.

The Gas-to-Energy Project is intended to deliver cleaner and lower-cost electricity, while the new arrivals terminal is expected to expand the country's capacity to accommodate international travellers.

The amendments do not represent new project financing figures; rather, they adjust the administration and timing of existing facilities to support the delivery of both projects.

US$5.5 BILLION NOW HELD IN GUYANA'S NATURAL RESOURCE FUND

Guyana's Natural Resource Fund (NRF) held approximately US$5.5 billion at the end of September 2026, providing a fresh indication of the scale of the country's accumulated petroleum wealth.

Minister Singh, presented the National Assembly with the latest notification of petroleum revenues deposited into the fund, covering the period July 1 to September 30, 2026.

The presentation was made in keeping with Section 33(2) of the Natural Resource Fund Act 2021, which provides for the reporting of petroleum revenues received by the fund.

The latest disclosure comes as Guyana continues to balance the accumulation of oil revenues with major investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education and other areas of national development.

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2026 Article IV consultation also highlighted the role of the fund in strengthening the country's financial position.

The IMF noted that continued accumulation of petroleum revenues in the NRF was helping to build external and fiscal buffers, while investments in physical and human capital were supporting non-oil economic growth and improving outcomes, particularly in health and education.



Oil savings climb to US$5.5 billion

The latest parliamentary disclosure provides an opportunity for citizens to follow the growth of that resource and the Government's reporting of oil revenues.

NEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS TARGET VAPING DEVICES, NICOTINE PRODUCTS AND RELATED SUBSTANCES

Guyana has moved to restrict the importation of vaping devices, components and substances, introducing tighter controls in response to growing concerns about their use among children and young people.

The measure was formalised through the Customs (Amendment of Second Schedule) Order 2026, signed by Minister Singh, and published in the Official Gazette following an announcement by President Ali.

Under the new Order, the importation of vaping products is restricted unless written approval is obtained from the Minister responsible for Health. Such approval cannot be granted unless the products are intended for scientific research, training or medical purposes.

Importantly, the restrictions extend beyond conventional electronic cigarettes. They cover disposable, rechargeable and refillable vaping devices, vape pens, pod systems, electronic cigars and pipes, as well as substances and components intended for use with those devices.

The Order also covers products whether or not they contain nicotine, tobacco, cannabis, cannabinoids or other substances.

Medical inhalation products, humidifiers, room diffusers and certain medical devices designed for legitimate healthcare purposes are excluded.

President Ali said the decision followed concerns raised by parents, teachers, religious leaders and other members of society about the widespread and unregulated importation, sale and use of vaping products.

Among the concerns highlighted were nicotine addiction, possible effects on adolescent brain development, risks during pregnancy and potential respiratory and mental health consequences.

"The absence of complete knowledge about those long-term effects must not be mistaken for evidence of safety," the President warned.

The measure places greater responsibility on import controls as Guyana seeks to address the growing presence of vaping among teenagers and schoolchildren.

Community service to replace prison time for certain minor offences under proposed law

People convicted of certain less serious offences could be sentenced to community service instead of imprisonment under proposed legislation introduced in the National Assembly.

The Criminal Justice Alternative Sentencing Bill seeks to give judicial officers a wider range of options when determining appropriate penalties, while making imprisonment a last resort for certain minor offences.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, explained that the proposed framework would allow courts to consider alternative penalties based on the circumstances of individual cases.

Community service is among the options being proposed, with the legislation allowing judicial officers to take into account an offender's skills and abilities when determining an appropriate non-custodial sentence.

The bill will repeal and replace the existing Extra-Mural Work Act, creating a broader framework for alternative sentencing.

The proposal comes as Guyana continues to address challenges associated with its prison population and the need to ensure correctional facilities are available for those convicted of more serious offences.

If enacted, the legislation would give the courts greater flexibility to impose penalties that combine accountability with opportunities for rehabilitation.

NEW LAW SEEKS TO RAISE STANDARDS ACROSS GUYANA'S AMBULANCE SERVICES

Ambulances operating across Guyana's public and private healthcare systems could face mandatory licensing, equipment and staffing requirements under proposed legislation aimed at improving emergency medical care.

The Emergency Medical Services Bill, presented in the National Assembly on behalf of Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony, seeks to establish the country's first comprehensive regulatory framework for pre-hospital emergency medical services.



Ambulance operators to face mandatory licensing and equipment requirements

Under the proposed law, a regulatory authority would be established to license, monitor and oversee emergency medical service providers, ensuring they meet prescribed operational and safety standards.

The requirements would extend to ambulances operated by private healthcare providers, public health institutions and the Guyana Fire Service.

Operators would have to satisfy standards governing vehicle specifications, medical equipment and the qualifications of personnel responsible for transporting and assisting patients.

The legislation also seeks to address gaps in emergency healthcare delivery, particularly the need for patients to receive timely medical intervention and stabilisation before reaching hospital.

For communities where access to emergency medical care can mean the difference between life and death, the proposed framework could bring greater consistency and accountability to the services available.

It also has implications for private ambulance operators, who would be required to meet the same prescribed regulatory standards applicable under the new framework.

GAMBLING INDUSTRY FACES NEW LICENSING, TAXATION AND ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK

Guyana's gambling industry to face a significantly stronger regulatory framework, with proposed legislation seeking to bring casinos, betting shops and online gaming platforms under the oversight of a new national authority.

The Guyana Gaming Authority Bill 2026 has been referred to a parliamentary special select committee for further examination following a motion moved by Minister Nandlall.

The proposed authority would assume responsibility for licensing, supervision, taxation and enforcement across the gaming sector. Its reach would include casinos, gaming lounges, betting shops, betting shop agents, remote gaming platforms and simulcast horse racing.

The legislation also proposes stronger compliance requirements relating to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, alongside administrative penalties for regulatory breaches.

Beyond financial regulation, the proposed legislation comes amid longstanding concerns about gambling addiction and its effects on families, relationships and community stability.

Religious organisations have been among those advocating stronger intervention, highlighting the social consequences of problematic gambling.

NEW LAW PROPOSES NATIONAL REGISTER TO PROTECT GUYANA'S CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ASSETS



Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr

Guyana is moving to modernise the protection of its historic buildings, archaeological discoveries and cultural assets through proposed legislation that would preserve national heritage without automatically stripping private property owners of ownership.

The National Heritage Preservation Bill 2026 seeks to replace the National Trust Act of 1972 with a broader framework for identifying, protecting and managing the country's historical and cultural resources.

During debate in the National Assembly, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport Charles Ramson Jr highlighted shortcomings in the existing legislation, including the absence of a legally recognised national heritage register and limited provisions for archaeological discoveries, heritage districts and underwater cultural sites.

One of the most significant proposed changes concerns private property. Under the existing law, declaring a property a national monument can trigger the transfer of ownership to the National Trust. The new bill removes that obstacle by allowing heritage protection to be extended to properties without taking ownership away from private individuals.

The legislation would also establish a National Heritage Preservation Council to oversee designated heritage sites, districts and objects. A national heritage register would be maintained and published annually in the Official Gazette, with information also made available through the council's website. This would allow members of the public and prospective buyers to determine whether a property is subject to heritage protection.

The bill goes further by introducing procedures for archaeological discoveries, treasure troves, shipwrecks and other underwater cultural heritage. It also provides for licensing requirements governing the import and export of heritage items.

The proposed council would be empowered to inspect properties to assess their heritage value, but would have to provide at least seven days' notice before entering private property.

A National Heritage Preservation Fund would also be established to finance preservation activities through parliamentary allocations, donations, fees and investment returns. Its accounts would be audited annually by the Auditor General.

Minister Ramson said the legislation was developed following more than 50 meetings and consultations over approximately three years, with draft versions also shared with international organisations, including UNESCO, the Commonwealth Heritage Forum and the King's Foundation.

The proposed reforms have particular significance in preserving the buildings, places and cultural landmarks that connect generations of Guyanese to their history and heritage.

SPEAKER RULES DETAINED MP CANNOT BYPASS COURT ORDER TO ATTEND SITTING VIRTUALLY



Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir

The National Assembly cannot override a court's authority to facilitate the participation of a detained member in parliamentary proceedings, Speaker, Manzoor Nadir has ruled, placing constitutional separation of powers at the centre of a dispute involving Opposition Leader, Azruddin Mohamed.

The ruling followed a request by Mohamed to participate virtually in a sitting of the National Assembly from Lusignan Prison.

In rejecting the request, Nadir explained that while an elected member does not automatically lose parliamentary membership simply because they are detained on remand, that status does not create an unrestricted right to leave lawful custody to participate in parliamentary proceedings.

The Speaker relied on Article 122A(1) of the Constitution, which safeguards the independence of the judiciary, and provisions of Articles 155 and 156 governing disqualification from parliamentary membership.

He stressed that detention on remand is not a conviction and does not automatically terminate an elected representative's membership.

However, he said the conditions governing a person's detention must be respected and that the Speaker's authority to regulate parliamentary proceedings does not extend to overriding judicial orders or compelling the release of a person lawfully detained.

"The separation of powers is not merely a constitutional principle in theory," Nadir stated. "It is a necessary safeguard against one arm of the government exercising authority that properly belongs to another."

He added that the Assembly must respect the judiciary's independence just as the courts must respect Parliament's constitutional functions.

The ruling underscores an important constitutional distinction: elected representatives remain subject to the law, and parliamentary membership does not place anyone beyond the jurisdiction of the courts.

GOVT AND OPPOSITION UNITE IN CONDEMNING VIOLENT THREAT AGAINST SPEAKER

Government and Opposition parliamentarians have joined in condemning a social media comment calling for the shooting of Speaker Nadir, insisting that political disagreement must never become an excuse for violence.

The matter was raised during the November sitting after the comment appeared during the live parliamentary broadcast.

Minister Ramson said there must be no tolerance for individuals encouraging violence against anyone, regardless of their political affiliation.

He reminded members that Parliament's live broadcasts are intended to encourage public participation, of Parliament. Dr but warned that the opportunity must not be abused.

"The right to freedom of expression is never freedom without responsibility," Minister Ramson said.

Opposition Member Terrence Campbell also condemned the statement, emphasising that political disagreements must be expressed through civil discourse.

"There is no place for violence in this country," he said.

Opposition Chief Whip, Tabitha Sarabo-Halley said she was appalled by the comment and insisted that such conduct has no place in Guyana's democracy.

Both Government and Opposition representatives encouraged the matter to be reported to the police.

GUYANA'S DEBT-TO-GDP RATIO FALLS FROM OVER 600% TO 28.9%, IMF ASSESSES RISK AS LOW

Guyana's public debt burden has fallen dramatically over three decades, with the country's debt-to-GDP ratio declining from more than 600 per cent in 1991 to 28.9 per cent by the end of 2025, according to figures presented to the National Assembly.

The figures highlight a major shift in the country's fiscal position as Guyana undertakes an expanding programme of infrastructure and social investment.

Minister Singh, pointed to the country's changing debt profile, noting that debt-service obligations have also declined significantly.

In 1991, debt servicing consumed approximately 90 per cent of Government revenues. By the end of 2025, that figure had fallen to 5.5 per cent.

The improvement has created greater room within the national budget to finance infrastructure, healthcare, education and other development priorities.

The IMF reaffirmed Guyana's favourable debt position in its 2026 Article IV consultation.

In its July 31 concluding statement, the IMF said the Government's "prudent borrowing strategy continues to support debt sustainability" and assessed the country's risk of debt distress as low.

Following its October 8 conclusion of the consultation, the IMF's Executive Board also noted that Guyana maintains one of the lowest debt-to-GDP ratios in the Western Hemisphere.

The assessment comes as Guyana undertakes major borrowing and financing arrangements to support large-scale infrastructure projects, including the Gas-to-Energy Project and airport expansion.

The figures offer an important measure of how its fiscal position has changed alongside the expansion of the oil and gas sector.

PRESIDENT ALI WANTS LOCAL FIRMS COMPETING FOR OVERSEAS CONTRACTS WITHIN THREE YEARS



The opening of GuyExpo 2026 at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali wants Guyanese businesses to become competitive enough to secure contracts in international markets within the next three years, signalling a push to develop local companies beyond the opportunities available in Guyana's expanding economy.

He said the Government intends to facilitate partnerships among local businesses, foreign contractors and oil and gas companies to help domestic firms gain the experience, technical capacity and expertise needed to compete abroad.

The President outlined the ambition at the opening of GuyExpo 2026 at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia, where he stressed that the country's long-term economic success must be measured by diversification and the strength of its productive base.

"The test of our success will not be in the revenue we're able to generate," he said. "It will not be in the growth rate of our economy...it will be on how well we are able to diversify our economy and expand our economic foundation."

President Ali also disclosed that an investment group with more than US$10 billion in assets under its portfolio and approximately US$5 billion in pre-approved investments visited Guyana to explore opportunities in agriculture, infrastructure, housing, tourism and logistics.

Citing the International Monetary Fund's 2026 Article IV report, he noted that the economy grew by more than 19 per cent in 2025, while employment increased by nearly 60 per cent between 2020 and 2025.

He said the next phase must translate economic expansion into greater business ownership, employment and international competitiveness for Guyanese.

GUYEXPO ATTRACTS RECORD 350 EXHIBITORS, EXPANDS PLATFORM FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES



Record GuyExpo participation creates wider market opportunities for local businesses

GuyExpo 2026 has reached a new participation milestone, with 350 booths allocated for the four-day exhibition, reflecting the growing involvement of businesses seeking to showcase their products and connect with potential customers.

Tourism, Industry and Commerce Minister, Susan Rodrigues announced the record during the opening ceremony at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia, emphasising that the event is intended to support business development beyond product displays.

"Our intention is to ensure that the expo is not simply a place to display products, but a space where meaningful business relationships are established and opportunities for growth are created," she said.

Held under the theme Creating Tomorrow's Opportunities Through Today's Investments, the exhibition featured local and international businesses, government agencies, cultural performances, product launches and the return of the Tourism Village.

Minister Rodrigues also highlighted the contribution of small enterprises to economic activity, noting that 6,553 businesses registered with the Small Business Bureau over the past six years, including 3,572 women-owned enterprises.

Five hundred other small businesses received sponsorship to participate in local and regional exhibitions, giving them opportunities to promote their products and explore new markets. The minister added that 75 per cent of businesses monitored by the bureau have remained operational.

She also pointed to the Guyana Development Bank's financing and mentorship support for entrepreneurs seeking to establish or expand their operations.

The exhibition provided businesses with a platform to increase visibility, engage consumers and build connections across different sectors of the economy.

GUYEXPO BIZLINK BRINGS 62 GUYANESE SUPPLIERS BEFORE BUYERS FROM EIGHT COUNTRIES



The BizLink's buyer-supplier matchmaking session

Sixty-two Guyanese suppliers have been connected with 42 buyers from eight countries through GuyExpo's BizLink 2026, an initiative designed to help local manufacturers secure commercial relationships beyond the exhibition floor.

Facilitated by the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), the business-to-business engagement brought together participants representing six regions of Guyana and international markets for targeted discussions on sourcing, distribution and potential investment.

The programme connects local producers with supermarket chains, distributors, retailers, hotels, hospitality operators and other companies seeking commercially viable products and suppliers.

Minister Rodrigues said the priority must be to turn interest in locally made goods into actual market opportunities, with businesses better positioned to meet demand, expand production and compete at scale.

To prepare for the meetings, GO-Invest circulated a preliminary catalogue of Guyanese products and manufacturers to prospective buyers, allowing them to identify potential suppliers before the engagement.

The 2026 edition builds on the platform introduced at GuyExpo 2025, adopting a more commercially focused approach centred on direct buyer-supplier discussions.

For Guyanese manufacturers, the initiative offers a more targeted route to securing distribution arrangements, accessing export markets and developing partnerships with overseas companies.

Its success will ultimately be measured not simply by the number of participants, but by the commercial agreements, supply relationships and new market access that emerge from the meetings.

PRESIDENT ALI LEADS REMEMBRANCE DAY TRIBUTE TO GUYANA'S FALLEN HEROES



Guyana remembers fallen servicemen and women at Remembrance Day ceremony

President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali honoured Guyanese and Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the First and Second World Wars, urging renewed commitment to peace, freedom and human dignity.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the President led the Remembrance Day Commemoration at the War Memorial Cenotaph at the junction of Main and Church Streets, laying the first wreath in tribute to those who never returned home.

"We are forever indebted to them for their supreme sacrifice in the cause of peace and freedom," President Ali saaid.

He noted that the sacrifices of those who fought against oppression must continue to inspire efforts towards a world grounded in justice and prosperity.

The ceremony featured a Guyana Defence Force parade, presidential salute, Last Post, two minutes of silence, Reveille and wreath-laying.

Unveiled in 1923, the Cenotaph remains Guyana's principal war memorial.



Guyana remembers fallen servicemen and women at Remembrance Day ceremony



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Province steps up to expand Sick Kids

By MIlan Maharaj
LJI REPORTER

The Ontario government is proceeding with the development of its plan to build an ambulatory care tower at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, allocating over $183 million for the planning and designing phases of the project.

The announcement was made on Nov. 19 and marks the start of the next phase of Project Horizon, the hospital's redevelopment project. The ambulatory care tower is expected to house most of the outpatient clinics and day surgeries at the hospital, enabling it to cater to 75,000 extra patient visits per year.

The province of Ontario has put out a Request for Proposals for the selection of a planning, design and conformance team. The team that is to be selected is expected to define the requirements for the construction process of the future project and ensure its coordination through the process of construction.

The proposed tower, which is located on Grosvenor Street in Toronto's downtown area, will integrate many functions such as diagnostics, heart and lung diagnostics, mental health services, specialized clinics, and spaces for patients and their families.

This new facility will supplement the planned Peter Gilgan Family Patient Care Tower that will be situated in the current University Avenue location of SickKids. According to the hospital's two-site redevelopment strategy, the outpatient services will be housed in the new facility, whereas the critical care will remain in the current location.

The province expects that this project will create around 500 jobs; however, there are no details on construction timescales and the expected date of opening.

This investment comes in the context of Ontario's overall investment plans to spend about $64 billion on more than 50 major hospital projects over the next ten years.

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GUYANA'S ENTERPI

GuyExpo 2026 brought together local and international businesses, entrepreneurs, investors and visitors for four days of exhibitions, networking and commercial opportunities at the National Exhibition Centre in Sophia.

With a record 350 booths allocated, the event showcased the products, services and innovation shaping Guyana's growing economy, while giving businesses opportunities to connect with buyers, establish partnerships and explore new markets.

From established industries to emerging small enterprises, the exhibition put the breadth and potential of Guyanese enterprise firmly in the spotlight.

























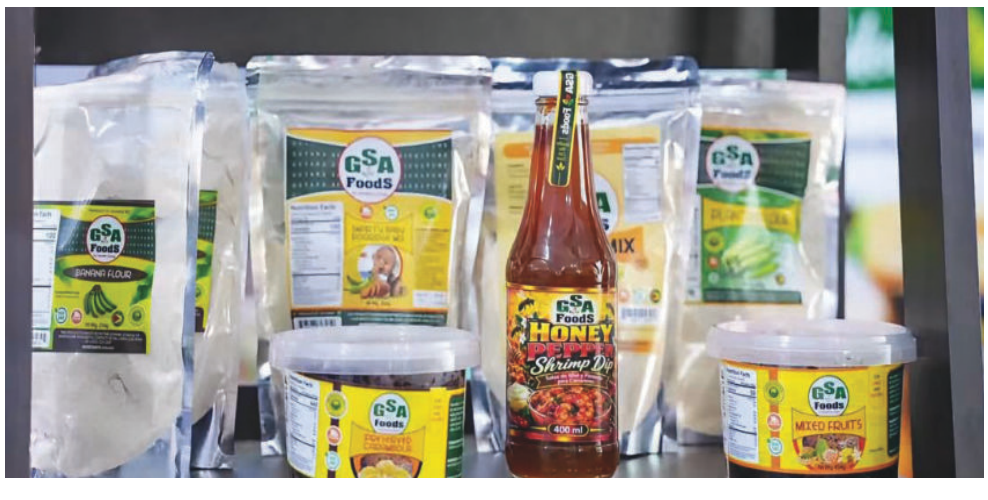

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US official suggests Guyana give up part of Essequibo

A former senior U.S. State Department official reportedly raised the possibility of Guyana surrendering part of its oil- and mineral-rich Essequibo territory to Venezuela during diplomatic discussions earlier this year, prompting concerns among Guyanese officials.

The revelation was first reported by Reuters on Thursday, Nov. 19, citing three people familiar with discussions involving Jeremy Lewin, who previously served as a senior policy official at the U.S. State Department.

According to the report, Lewin met with Guyana's Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud in Washington in September and discussed the possibility of U.S.-facilitated negotiations aimed at resolving the longstanding territorial dispute between Guyana and Venezuela.

During those discussions, Lewin reportedly suggested that Guyana consider an arrangement under which Venezuela would gain control over a portion of Essequibo, a region that accounts for approximately two-thirds of Guyana's territory.

The suggestion reportedly unsettled Guyanese officials, who subsequently sought clarification from other representatives of the U.S. government about Washington's position on the territorial dispute.

The State Department later reaffirmed that U.S. policy regarding the existing boundary between Guyana and Venezuela had not changed.

Lewin acknowledged engaging in preliminary discussions with representatives of both countries but did not publicly confirm the specific territorial proposal described by Reuters.

He maintained that the diplomatic outreach had been authorized by the White House.

According to Lewin, the discussions followed a request from Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez, who had reportedly sought U.S. assistance in addressing the territorial dispute in a letter to President Donald Trump in May.

Lewin said he had been instructed to explore the possibility of negotiations and subsequently briefed senior U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on the discussions.

However, the White House did not directly confirm whether it had authorized consideration of territorial concessions.

The reported discussions come amid continued tensions between Guyana and Venezuela over Essequibo, a vast region covering approximately 160,000 square kilometers west of the Essequibo River.

The dispute dates back to the 19th century, when the territory formed part of British Guiana.

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PARTY TRAYS AVAILABLE!

Trinidad and Tobago denies talks with US to accept third-country deportees

The Trinidad and Tobago government has denied holding discussions with the United States about accepting third-country nationals deported from the country, distancing itself from arrangements being pursued by several other Caribbean nations.

Leader of Government Business in the Senate Darrell Allahar made the clarification Tuesday, Nov. 17, while responding to a question from the opposition.

"The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has not entered into and is not negotiating any agreement or other arrangement with the Government of the United States of America for Trinidad and Tobago to receive third-country nationals deported from the United States," Allahar said.

The statement comes as several Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries have signed agreements or engaged in negotiations with Washington to receive or temporarily accommodate migrants deported from the United States who are not citizens of the receiving countries.

The arrangements form part of the U.S. government's broader efforts to expand deportation options through agreements with foreign governments.



The USA has been deporting people to countries other than those of origin

Jamaica signed a memorandum of understanding with the United States in June 2026 establishing a transit arrangement for third-country nationals. Under the agreement, Jamaica can receive up to 25 individuals every two weeks, with no more than 25 people permitted in the country at any given time.

St. Lucia has also entered into a bilateral agreement with Washington to receive third-country nationals, with an anticipated intake of up to 10 individuals per quarter over a two-year period.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica have reached preliminary understandings with the United States following visa restrictions and proposed travel bond requirements linked to their citizenship-by-investment programs.

Other CARICOM member states, including Guyana, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and The Bahamas, have also participated in discussions or pursued framework agreements concerning the reception of deportees.

St. Kitts and Nevis has indicated that any prospective arrangement would be restricted to CARICOM nationals or individuals whose immigration violations involve visa overstays, excluding those convicted of violent or sexual offenses.

The agreements have attracted attention across the Caribbean as governments weigh their diplomatic relationships with Washington against concerns about immigration enforcement, national security and the capacity of small island states to accommodate deportees.

However, Trinidad and Tobago's government maintains that no such arrangement is being negotiated with the United States.



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VP JAGDEO URGES CLIMATE ACTION BACKED BY FINANCING, PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS



VP interactions at the United Nations COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Türkiye

Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has challenged world leaders to move beyond decades of climate pledges and deliver practical solutions, arguing that developing countries need reliable financing and an energy transition that accommodates their economic realities.

Addressing the United Nations COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Türkiye, Dr. Jagdeo said many issues debated at previous conferences remained unresolved, despite years of negotiations.

He stressed that climate policies must recognise differences in countries' circumstances and capacities, rather than impose unnecessary economic hardship.

"Countries have different circumstances, and we need solutions that recognise those differences, deliver results and improve people's lives," he said.

Dr. Jagdeo argued that the transition away from fossil fuels must also account for growing electricity demand, particularly with the expansion of artificial intelligence and other energy-intensive technologies.

"If we are to achieve global net zero by 2050, we cannot make the solution a binary discussion about whether fossil fuels or no fossil fuels," he said, advocating a combination of reduced fossil fuel consumption, renewable energy expansion, electrification and forest conservation.

He identified financing for forest protection as one area where international commitments could produce tangible results, urging partners to establish reliable mechanisms that reward countries for preserving ecosystems.

Speaking at a separate high-level event co-hosted by Guyana, Brazil, Norway, the Republic of the Congo and the United Kingdom, Dr. Jagdeo said: "**The key to faster progress is finance.**"



VP interactions at the United Nations COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Türkiye

He highlighted Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, which evolved from his 2007 proposal to protect the country's forests in exchange for international financial support.

In 2022, Guyana became the first country to receive carbon credits for forest protection on a nationwide basis. Hess, subsequently acquired by Chevron, committed to purchasing at least US$750 million in credits over 10 years.

Dr. Jagdeo said the programme was expected to generate more than US$100 million in 2026, with 20 per cent of carbon-credit revenue directed to the country's 252 Indigenous villages. He said communities had financed more than 3,000 projects over four years.

He called for stronger political leadership, more predictable carbon markets and the implementation of international frameworks, including CORSIA and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, to expand opportunities for forest-rich countries.

"We cannot ask forest countries to make long-term commitments while leaving uncertain the international frameworks on which they rely," he said.

Dr. Jagdeo maintained that the credibility of global climate negotiations would ultimately depend on countries delivering measurable results rather than simply making further commitments.

GUYWAY BRINGS 52 ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO GUYANA'S GROWING TRANSPORT MARKET



Guyway launches with 52 Teslas, plans fleet expansion

Guyana's expanding economy is creating opportunities for new business ventures, with the launch of Guyway introducing a technology-driven electric vehicle service to the country's transportation sector.

The service, officially launched at the AC Marriott Hotel, Ogle, has already placed 52 Tesla vehicles on the road, with more than 100 additional vehicles expected as operations expand.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips who attended the launch, welcomed the investment, noting that the service responds to increasing demand for reliable transportation as economic activity and the movement of people grow.

Established in 2025 by three University of Oxford classmates, Guyway operates across Georgetown and provides airport connections to Cheddi Jagan International Airport and Eugene F. Correia International Airport.



Guyway launches with 52 Teslas, plans fleet expansion

Its booking application and real-time vehicle monitoring system are designed to improve convenience, accountability and passenger safety.

Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder, Peter Lorenzo said the company aims to provide a safe, reliable and environmentally sustainable transportation option for residents, business professionals and international visitors.

The investment adds to Guyana's emerging electric mobility landscape, introducing another private-sector service that combines technology, transportation and lower-emission alternatives as the country pursues its broader low-carbon development agenda.

NEARLY 1,100 ELECTRIC VEHICLES NOW OPERATING ACROSS GUYANA

Guyana plans to expand its public electric vehicle charging network from nine to 24 stations by the end of 2026, as the government moves to support growing demand for cleaner transportation.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips said Guyana Energy Agency figures show that just under 1,100 electric vehicles are currently operating nationwide, with public charging stations serving Regions Three, Four, Five, Six and Ten.

The existing network includes facilities at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport and Eugene F. Correia International Airport, while construction is underway on a solar-powered charging carport in Mahdia.

PM Phillips said reliable charging infrastructure and improved electricity supply are essential to sustaining the transition to electric transportation, alongside renewable energy investments under the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030.



Guyana's emerging electric mobility landscape

To encourage adoption, electric vehicles attract zero import duties and taxes, while businesses investing in them qualify for a 50 per cent accelerated write-down allowance.

The government is also building local technical capacity. Twenty five more technicians completed the GEA's electric vehicle maintenance and repair programme in September, bringing the total trained to 102.

PM Phillips said this will ensure owners have access to qualified personnel to maintain their vehicles and address technical problems as the sector expands.

Minister McCoy urges media graduates to support national development

Hundreds of Guyanese have benefited from professional training through the Guyana Media and Communications Academy (GMCA), as the Government continues to invest in education, skills development and expanded opportunities for citizens nationwide.

On Saturday, the academy graduated students from its 2024, 2025 and 2026 cohorts.

The academy plays a significant role in developing a competent and adaptable workforce equipped to meet the changing demands of the communications industry.

Established in 2021 through the vision of Minister of Public Affairs Kwame McCoy, the academy has reached more than 500 participants from all 10 regions, offering training in journalism, broadcasting, public relations, strategic communications, photography, videography, graphic design, social media management and digital storytelling.

Delivering the feature address, Minister Kwame McCoy congratulated the graduates, noting that their achievements reflect government continued investment in developing the country's human resources.

"What you are part of today is really about celebrating not just your commitment and your achievement, but also about Guyana and its development," the minister stated.

He emphasised the important role graduates will play in national development, particularly in helping citizens access accurate and timely information.

"At a time when we all have to grapple with the serious challenges of misinformation and disinformation, your role becomes even more important and critical," Minister McCoy said.

The minister urged graduates to use their training responsibly, verify information and ensure that their work helps citizens make informed decisions.

Minister McCoy also encouraged graduates to consider opportunities in communities within their respective regions, noting that the academy's outreach was designed to identify talent across the country and provide persons with the skills to support media coverage, public relations and broadcasting in their respective communities.

The academy provides a structured classroom setting for participants, practical exercises and industry exposure, followed by a six-week internship programme at established media agencies which allows them to apply their skills in professional working environments.

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MINISTER EDGHILL INSPECTS THREE MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS, PUSHES FOR COMPLETION

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill has inspected three major road projects in Georgetown and along the East Coast of Demerara, pressing for outstanding works to be resolved and construction accelerated to improve connectivity and ease traffic congestion.

The inspections covered the Ogle–Providence Road connection, the East Coast Demerara Road expansion and the Sussex Street extension to Mandela Avenue.

Ogle–Providence connection

The Ogle–Providence extension is progressing, with the new connector expected to link the Ogle Highway to the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge, providing motorists with an additional route between the East Coast and the bridge.



New Ogle-Providence connection adavnces

Minister Edghill also addressed arrangements for farmers whose crops and livestock have been affected by construction. Crop compensation will be determined through assessments by the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), while arrangements are being finalised for affected structures and the relocation of livestock pens.

The minister said outstanding agreements with affected farmers would be completed soon, with individuals informed of their compensation before signing.

East Coast Road expansion

Meanwhile, the four-lane East Coast Demerara expansion is approaching its final stage, but the relocation of electricity infrastructure remains necessary before motorists can use the full width of the roadway.



The four-lane East Coast Demerara expansion is approaching its final stage

Minister Edghill explained that replacement transmission lines must first be energised before existing roadside poles can be removed and contractors can complete the final asphalt works.

Guyana Power and Light (GPL) has indicated that the relocation works between Goedverwagting and Good Hope will be completed by November 30. However, further relocation along the Good Hope-to-Mahaica section will take several additional months.

Sussex Street extension

In Georgetown, Minister Edghill called for accelerated works on the Sussex Street extension, which will connect to Mandela Avenue and provide an alternative east–west route through the capital.



The minister stressed that the project must be completed in time for Christmas so motorists can begin using the new connection.

The works include five concrete bridges, drains, pedestrian walkways and parking facilities on both sides of the road.

The route is expected to reduce congestion by allowing motorists travelling towards the East Coast and Berbice to access Mandela Avenue without passing through some of central Georgetown's busiest streets.

The three projects form part of ongoing efforts to expand road capacity, improve access and provide alternative routes for commuters.

NEW ROAD SHOULDERS TARGET SAFER SCHOOL DROP-OFFS, IMPROVED PARKING IN GEORGETOWN



Road shoulder upgrades continue

More than 50 derelict vehicles have been removed from North Georgetown, with 58 more identified for removal, as government advances its road shoulder improvement programme to create additional parking, improve drainage and make busy roadways safer.

During a walkthrough of completed sections, including the area outside The Bishops" High School on Carmichael Street, Public Works Minister Bishop Juan Edghill said the upgrades are already providing motorists with more space to park and drop off or collect children without obstructing traffic.

At the school, the additional space is expected to reduce congestion and give hundreds of students who use the area daily a safer environment to move between vehicles and the school compound.

The works involve excavating muddy verges and replacing them with compacted layers of sand, crusher run and sand screening. Minister Edghill explained that the surface is designed to support vehicles while allowing water to penetrate the ground, rather than creating additional drainage problems.

He also sought to reassure residents concerned about the changing appearance of the city's verges, saying existing trees will be protected, grass will return and additional decorative plants will be introduced.

"The grass will be able to grow again on this. It is fixed in such a way. It is only a matter of time. We are in the dry season, but once the rain starts to fall, the greenery will come back again," he said.

Pointing to a large tree along Middle Street, where the upgraded shoulder has been installed around its base, the minister said protective barriers are being used to prevent vehicles from damaging existing trees.

The programme is also clearing spaces previously occupied by abandoned vehicles, garbage containers and other obstructions, improving access to businesses and giving pedestrians more room away from moving traffic.

Minister Edghill acknowledged complaints about contractors dumping materials along roadways and excavating long sections before they were ready for completion.

"We've stopped all of that and where residents have been affected by that, we apologise," he said.

He added that household bridges and entrances will not be altered during the current phase, but the ministry intends to consult residents on adjustments that may be needed to improve water flow.

Government is targeting completion of most heavy construction by Christmas, with stronger contractor supervision and maintenance planned.

MORE THAN 200 CONVICTIONS SECURED AGAINST ILLEGAL MINERS IN 10 MONTHS

More than 200 convictions have been secured against illegal miners between January and October 2026, as the Ministry of Natural Resources intensifies enforcement of Guyana's mining laws.

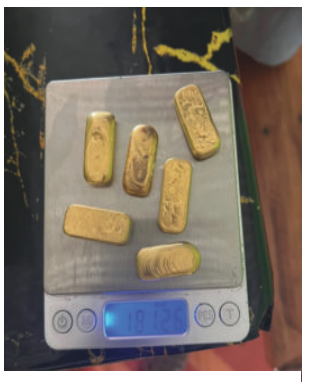
The convictions were recorded in the Magistrates' Courts in Bartica, Mahdia and Linden, involving offences such as mining without authorisation, operating unlicensed or unregistered dredges and breaching the Mining Act and its regulations.

According to the ministry's prosecution records, many defendants pleaded guilty and were fined. Others who initially contested the charges later changed their pleas, while convictions were also secured through trials.

Three defendants who pleaded not guilty were remanded to prison pending trial, while several other contested cases remain before the courts.

Enforcement operations also resulted in the seizure of excavators and other mining equipment, alongside significant quantities of gold handed over to the relevant authorities.

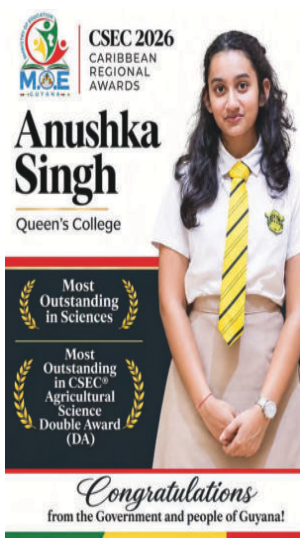
The ministry said the actions are intended to curb illegal mining, protect Guyana's mineral resources and strengthen accountability across the sector.



Excavators, gold seized amid enforcement drive against illegal mining

126 REGIONAL PLACEMENTS, EIGHT TOP AWARDS FOR GUYANESE STUDENTS







Guyanese students have strengthened the country's standing among the Caribbean's top academic performers, securing 126 placements across the 2026 CSEC and CAPE regional merit lists, up from 92 the previous year.

The results represent a significant improvement in regional performance, with CSEC placements rising by 45 per cent and CAPE placements also recording an increase.

At CSEC, Guyana secured 87 placements across 25 subjects, compared with 60 placements across 16 subjects in 2025. At CAPE, students earned 39 placements across 15 subject units, up from 32 placements across 14 units.

Beyond the overall numbers, three students distinguished themselves by capturing eight of the Caribbean Examinations Council's top individual awards.

Nitya Narine of Tagore Memorial Secondary School emerged as Most Outstanding Overall at CSEC, while also securing top honours in Humanities and Technical and Vocational Studies.

Queen's College students Az-Zahra Mohamed and Anushka Singh also earned regional recognition. Mohamed was named Most Outstanding in Business, while Singh received awards for Sciences and Agricultural Science Double Award.

At CAPE, Toreka Persaud of Queen's College was named Most Outstanding Overall and Most Outstanding in Natural Sciences.

The wider results also highlight the growing representation of Guyanese schools in regional academic rankings. Eight secondary schools recorded placements on the CAPE merit list, led by Queen's College with 21 placements across 10 units. The Bishops' High School followed with six placements across four units, while Berbice High School recorded five placements in one unit.

Christianburg/Wismar Secondary School, Diamond Secondary School, Anna Regina Secondary School, Mackenzie High School and St Stanislaus College also secured places.

For Guyana, the results offer more than individual recognition. The increased number of placements across a wider range of subjects points to a stronger presence in regional academic competition, with students demonstrating their capabilities across humanities, business, sciences, agriculture and technical disciplines.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali congratulated the awardees, crediting their discipline and determination, alongside investments in education, teachers' commitment and the support of parents and guardians.

Education Minister Sonia Parag also recognised the students, educators, school leaders and families whose efforts contributed to the results, reaffirming the ministry's commitment to expanding opportunities for learners across the country.

With more students and schools earning recognition beyond Guyana's borders, the 2026 results provide a strong indication of the country's growing academic reach within the Caribbean.

CHILD WELFARE TASK FORCE TO SUBMIT NATIONAL ACTION PLAN BEFORE YEAR-END

A national task force reviewing Guyana's child protection system is expected to submit a comprehensive report before the end of the year, outlining gaps in existing services and recommending measures to strengthen the protection of children.

President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced the timeline during a press conference at the Office of the President, saying the exercise is examining existing laws, policies and programmes while identifying ways for agencies to work together more effectively.



Government agencies, stakeholders coordinate on stronger child protection system

"... I called the attorney general for a full update on the work. They're working in a coordinated manner, all ...the agencies, highlighting all of the laws that are there, the policies and programmes that are already there, and looking at how we strengthen them," the President said.

The report is expected to identify shortcomings, establish an action plan and recommend a more integrated approach to child welfare, including stronger links between protection services and the education system.

The task force is also consulting external stakeholders as part of the review. Its membership includes Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, and the Ministers of Home Affairs, Education and Human Services, along with representatives of the Judiciary, law enforcement, religious organisations, constitutional rights commissions and the National Toshaos Council.

Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony is expected to join the team. The Guyana Bar Association has also been invited, while the Private Sector Commission and Restorative Justice Centre have expressed interest in participating.

President Ali said he had been assured that the report would be submitted before year-end, providing a framework for the next phase of strengthening child welfare services.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION COULD BRING STRONGER RESPONSE TO SCHOOL BULLYING

Bullying in Guyana's schools could face a stronger legal response, with the government considering legislation alongside wider measures to address behaviour affecting students and teachers.

Education Minister, Sonia Parag disclosed during the Starting Point Podcast that she had **discussed the possibility of new legislation with the Attorney General.**

"At some point, we will be looking at legislation because I have had that conversation as well with the attorney general," she said.

A task force led by the Attorney General, comprising government ministries, religious organisations and civil society representatives, is also working to develop coordinated policies and interventions.

Minister Parag said reports of bullying and fighting had increased in recent years, with social media making incidents more visible. She stressed that bullying extends beyond physical confrontations to include humiliation, exclusion and insults targeting a child's appearance or abilities.

Students, parents and teachers are being encouraged to report incidents through the Education Ministry's reporting app. The minister also urged parents to speak regularly with their children about their mental well-being and encouraged stronger communication between teachers and families.

Meanwhile, recommendations from a national anti-bullying consultation and engagements across all 10 administrative regions have been compiled into a report now before the minister. Consultations on children's social media use are also continuing.



Anti-bullying law under consideration as government develops wider school response

CANADA, CURAÇAO AND SEYCHELLES AMONG DESTINATIONS COVERED BY GUYANA'S NEW AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS



Guyana signs air services agreement with Curacao

Guyana is widening its international aviation network through new air services agreements with Canada, Seychelles and Curaçao, creating opportunities for additional airline operations, stronger commercial links and improved connectivity for Guyanese at home and abroad.

The agreements were signed by Public Utilities and Aviation Minister, Deodat Indar during the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference in Montreal, as the Government works to establish arrangements that can support new routes and airline services.

The agreement with Canada is particularly significant for the diaspora, given that the country is home to the world's second-largest Guyanese community, concentrated largely in Toronto. It replaces a more restrictive 2005 pact, updating provisions governing passenger and cargo services, airline operations, safety and security.

Air Transat and Cargojet currently operate between the two countries, while the Government is in advanced discussions with other airlines interested in introducing services. Indar described the agreement as an Open Skies arrangement intended to strengthen economic ties and make travel easier and more affordable.

The agreements with Seychelles and Curaçao also create opportunities for airlines to explore future services, although neither destination currently has direct flights to Guyana.

Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority Director, General Peter Steinmetz said the agreement puts the necessary arrangements in place for airlines to pursue commercially viable routes.

Seychelles Transport Minister, Veronique Laporte described her country's agreement with Guyana as an opportunity to deepen aviation cooperation and promote people-to-people exchanges.

Together, the three agreements broaden Guyana's aviation partnerships and establish the regulatory groundwork for airlines to consider additional international and regional connections.

NEW UAE PARTNERSHIP OPENS AVIATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG GUYANESE

Young Guyanese could gain access to expanded aviation training, mentoring and career opportunities under a new cooperation partnership between Guyana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which also targets greater participation by women and the adoption of emerging technologies.

The instrument was signed by Public Utilities and Aviation Minister Deodat Indar and UAE General Civil Aviation Authority Director General Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, establishing a framework for deeper collaboration in civil aviation.

A key focus is workforce development, including joint support for Guyana's Women in Aviation and Next Generation Aviation Professionals Conference scheduled for March 2027. The initiative will promote outreach, mentoring and greater access to opportunities for women and young people entering the industry.



New aviation partnership open doors for Guyana's workforce

The partnership also provides for technical cooperation in artificial intelligence, including the exchange of knowledge, best practices and regulatory approaches as aviation technology evolves.

Minister Indar said the arrangement would create new opportunities for emerging professionals while strengthening the regional aviation sector.

"**This partnership will open new doors for our young people and women and strengthen aviation across the Caribbean**," he said.

The cooperation comes as Guyana experiences growing demand for air travel, cargo services and skilled aviation professionals, driven by its expanding economy.

Building local expertise and broadening participation in the industry are expected to complement ongoing airport infrastructure investments and support Guyana's ambition to become a leading aviation hub in the Caribbean.

Guyana and the UAE have maintained diplomatic relations since February 6, 1995, with the latest initiative extending their cooperation into an increasingly important area of economic development.

GUYANA NAMED BEST EMERGING DESTINATION 2026 AT WORLD TOURISM AWARDS

Guyana has secured further international recognition for its growing tourism industry, earning the title of Best Emerging Destination 2026 at the World Tourism Awards in Brussels, Belgium.

Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues accepted the award on the country's behalf during the awards ceremony and gala dinner.

The recognition comes as Guyana records unprecedented growth in visitor arrivals, with 453,489 visitors in 2025, a 22 per cent increase over the previous year and the highest annual total in the country's history.

Minister Rodrigues attributed the country's growing international profile to its transformation and expanding tourism offerings, supported by investments in infrastructure, air connectivity and accommodation.

She said the Government's ambition extends beyond attracting more visitors to building a sustainable and inclusive industry that creates economic opportunities, supports local businesses and empowers Indigenous communities.

The award adds to Guyana's growing visibility as an emerging destination in the international tourism market.



International recognition puts Destination Guyana in the spotlight

$2 MILLION E-BIKE INVESTMENT, NEW CONTRACTORS FORM PART OF GEORGETOWN SANITATION PUSH

The government has invested close to $2 million in electric bikes to improve monitoring of garbage collection contractors and strengthen sanitation services across Georgetown.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Priya Manickchand announced the initiative at a media conference, explaining that the e-bikes will allow community service officers to monitor collection activities and ensure contractors fulfil their obligations.

The investment forms part of wider efforts to improve waste management, including the reinstatement of the bulky waste collection programme approximately one month ago, in collaboration with the Georgetown Mayor and City Council (M&CC).

Under the programme, 15 contractors have been engaged in each constituency, with additional teams assigned to larger constituencies to remove accumulated bulky waste.

The initiative is expected to cost approximately $78 million annually and will target waste that has built up in communities over several years.

Minister Manickchand said improving sanitation requires stronger accountability and better management of existing resources. She noted that the M&CC spends approximately $500 million annually on garbage collection, arguing that ensuring contractors deliver the services for which they are paid is critical to addressing the problem.



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Priya Manickchand announced the initiative

SURVIVORS RELIVE DESPERATE FIGHT FOR LIFE AS BARIMA INQUIRY HEARS RESCUE ACCOUNTS



Adam Matabheek and his wife, Carletta Matabheek appearing before the Presidential Commission of Inquiry



Rajwan Komar



Helena Moonsammy



Fisherman Haresh Singh

The struggle to escape an overturned ferry, children fighting to stay alive in dark waters and fishermen braving rough seas to pull survivors from the wreckage are among the harrowing accounts emerging from the MV Barima disaster.

Testimony before the Commission of Inquiry has brought into focus the terror aboard the vessel as it capsized on July 18, the desperate fight for survival that followed and the devastating toll on families who lost loved ones.

Rajwan Komar described how he fought his way out from beneath the overturned ferry, with cargo and passengers piled above him. After reaching the surface, he secured two floating life jackets and helped get one to a young girl who could not swim.

Clinging to a blue box alongside other survivors, Komar used his phone to search for a signal before eventually reaching 911 at 10:58 p.m.

"**For one terrifying moment, I truly believed I was gonna die,**" he told the Commission.

For others, survival came at an unbearable cost. Adam and Carletta Matabheek described a vessel crowded with passengers and cargo, with Adam estimating that between 180 and 200 people were aboard. He said goods occupied benches and other passenger spaces, while life jackets were kept inside a locked cage. Passengers, he testified, received no emergency instructions or announcements.

Although the couple survived, Adam lost four family members, including his sister-in-law and her three children.

Grandmother, Helena Moonsammy recounted fighting to reach the surface as cargo fell around her. She had been travelling with eight grandchildren; four died in the disaster.

Her daughter, Samantha Ramitt, described the anguish of receiving an early-morning call and setting out to find her family. Ramitt told the Commission that her surviving 12-year-old son remains afraid of travelling over water.

The accounts of those who survived have been matched by testimony from those who went into the dangerous waters to find them.

Fisherman, Haresh Singh described how he and his team responded to calls for help, heading out shortly before 1 a.m. in darkness and rough seas. Guided by flares, they located four life rafts, with the last carrying 11 survivors, including children.

Singh climbed down to the raft and pulled survivors into his boat, some in terrible condition. He later drew on his knowledge of the waters and GPS coordinates to help locate the sunken ferry, returning to the area after its position was lost during the search.

Beyond the personal accounts, commissioners are scrutinising the vessel's records, inspection procedures and safety arrangements. Among the documents examined is a 2021 survey report that described the Barima as "unseaworthy" and recommended urgent dry-docking.

As the inquiry continues, its task is to establish how the tragedy unfolded, examine the decisions and safety measures involved, and identify the changes needed to prevent another such loss of life.

GUYANA SECURES SEAT AT REGIONAL AVIATION TABLE AS 23RD LACAC MEMBER

Guyana has secured a place in the regional decision-making framework for civil aviation, becoming the 23rd member state of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) and opening new opportunities to influence aviation policy, strengthen regulatory cooperation and expand regional connectivity.



Guyana secures seat in Latin America and Caribbean aviation decision-making

The membership was formalised on the sidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) ATCON/7 and 43rd Extraordinary Assembly in Montreal, Canada, where LACAC President Julio Peña Guzmán presented the Certificate of Membership Acceptance to Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) Director General Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Egbert Field.

For Guyanese at home and abroad, the move strengthens the country's participation in decisions that shape regional air transport, safety standards and the movement of people and goods across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Public Utilities and Aviation Minister Deodat Indar described the membership as a strategic step in President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision of positioning Guyana as an active contributor to regional aviation development.

Field said membership would strengthen safety oversight and regulatory alignment while allowing Guyana to help shape regional policy.

Guyana will now participate in LACAC's Assembly and expert working groups, contributing to safety standards, air transport agreements and policies affecting the region's aviation industry.

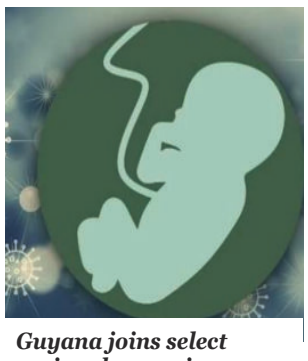
GUYANA EARNS WHO RECOGNITION FOR PREVENTING HIV AND SYPHILIS TRANSMISSION TO BABIES

Guyana hasa earned international recognition for preventing the transmission of HIV and syphilis from mothers to their babies, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) officially validating their elimination as public health problems.

The milestone places Guyana among a select group of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve the distinction, recognising years of investment in maternal healthcare, expanded screening, timely treatment and stronger public health services.

In a letter dated November 16, 2026, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus informed Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony that Guyana had met the organisation's international validation requirements following a review by its Global Validation Advisory Committee on November 5.

"Guyana has been validated as having achieved the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis for the period 2022-2025. I congratulate Guyana on this landmark achievement," Dr Tedros stated.



Guyana joins select regional group in eliminating mother-to-child HIV and syphilis transmission

The validation followed a comprehensive assessment coordinated by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), including a virtual review in June and an in-country assessment of national healthcare programmes, laboratory systems, surveillance, community engagement and human rights safeguards.

Minister Anthony described the recognition as a victory for mothers and children, crediting the sustained efforts of healthcare professionals and the Government's investments in strengthening the health sector under President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

He stressed that the achievement represents infections prevented and children given a healthier start in life.

Importantly, the certification confirms that transmission has been reduced to internationally established elimination levels as a public health problem; it does not mean HIV and syphilis have been eradicated.

Guyana will undergo another review in 2030, assessing performance during 2026–2029, as it works towards the broader goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B.

PRESIDENT ALI CHALLENGES CARIBBEAN TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND EMBRACE REGIONAL JUSTICE.



President Ali delivering feature address

Caribbean judiciaries must modernise their systems, protect public confidence and strengthen regional institutions if they are to remain independent and effective amid rapid technological, social and security changes, President Ali has challenged.

Addressing the opening of the 9th Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO), President Ali called for greater regional cooperation in responding to emerging threats, improving access to justice and ensuring that courts remain relevant to the people they serve.

He identified public trust as a critical safeguard of judicial independence and emphasised that confidence in the courts depends on their ability to adapt to changing circumstances while preserving the fundamental principle of timely and accessible justice.

The president urged judicial officers to consider how smaller Caribbean countries, many with limited fiscal resources, could keep pace with the technological demands of modern justice systems.

He proposed that the conference produce a paper to broaden discussions among regional policymakers



A section of the delegation at the CAJO conference

on the issue, recognising that not every country has the financial capacity to independently develop the infrastructure required.

He also called for a mechanism to brief judges on regional security threats, including intelligence on criminal networks and terrorism, arguing that the separation of powers should not translate into a separation of information.

On the growing influence of social media, President Ali drew a distinction between legitimate public scrutiny of judicial decisions and attempts to intimidate the courts.

A court, he cautioned, cannot determine a case by "**counting the number of likes, shares, or comments**."

The Guyanese leader also renewed his call for greater regional acceptance of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) as the final court of appeal, describing it as "**a credit to our region.**"

He questioned the continued reluctance of some Caribbean countries to embrace the institution, particularly as the region advances discussions on reparations, sovereignty and freedom from colonial structures.

President of the CCJ, Justice Winston Anderson, similarly underscored the need for courts to remain effective, accessible and trusted as technological, economic and geopolitical developments reshape the administration of justice.

Describing the conference's theme, "Changing Fundamentals of Judging" as particularly relevant, Justice Anderson said democratic institutions were being tested in an era of unprecedented change.

He stressed that judicial officers must understand the complex realities facing court users and recognise the far-reaching consequences of their decisions, while remaining committed to constitutional protection, fundamental rights and the rule of law.

The three-day conference at the Marriott Hotel in Kingston, Georgetown, brought together 194 delegates from the Caribbean and beyond, including chief justices, judges, magistrates, registrars and court administrators.

Discussions covered artificial intelligence in judicial processes, judicial ethics, restorative justice, transnational crime, human and social rights education, and judicial well-being, providing a regional platform to examine how courts can respond to emerging challenges without compromising their independence.

BAIL PRINCIPLES UNCHANGED FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY - AG NANDLALL



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

The legal principles governing bail have remained established for more than a century, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall has stressed, following the High Court's dismissal of a judicial review application challenging Magistrate Abigail Gibbs's decision to remand Opposition Leader, Azruddin Mohamed.

Speaking to the media, AG Nandlall said Justice Priscilla Chandra-Hanif's ruling reaffirmed longstanding legal principles under the country's Bail Act and clarified the considerations that judicial officers must apply when determining whether an accused person should be granted bail.

He explained that factors such as previous charges and the possibility of interference with witnesses or evidence are among the considerations courts must weigh when making such decisions.

"If this judge had ruled in a manner different...this would have fallen into error. The law in relation to bail is clear, and it has been clear for over a century. None of the principles enunciated by the judge in her judgment is new principles," AG Nandlall said.

The Attorney General also argued that Mohamed's legal team had invoked the wrong jurisdiction under the Bail Act when challenging the magistrate's decision.

He explained that this limited the High Court to reviewing what transpired before the magistrate rather than conducting a fresh hearing of the matter.

"They, in error, invoked the wrong jurisdiction under the Bail Act. That is what limited the court's ability and confined the court only to a review tribunal of what transpired in the magistrate's court, and not to be able to rehear what transpired in the magistrate's court," he said.

AG Nandlall said the ruling reinforces the established legal framework governing bail applications and challenges to decisions made by magistrates.

SEVEN NEW TOURISM EXPERIENCES EXPAND GUYANA'S APPEAL



The experiences were unveiled at the Four Points by Sheraton

Visitors to Guyana will have more opportunities to explore the country's natural beauty, cultural heritage and adventure offerings, with seven new tourism experiences expanding the range of activities available to international and local travellers.

The products were unveiled by the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce and the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) at a launch hosted at the Four Points by Sheraton.

The new offerings include Waia Lodge's Overnight Experience, Free Bird Travel's Back to Basics Kayak Adventure, Singing Chef Adventures' African Roots, and three tours by Wanderlust Adventures GY: Art and Culture, Faiths of Guyana and Guyana Layover. Trail Masters Adventure Tours also introduced its Kwakwani Escape.

The experiences bring together Guyana's landscapes, traditions, cuisine and communities, while creating additional opportunities for local tourism operators.

GTA's Senior Manager of Product Development, Candace Phillips said the launch reflects years of collaboration and efforts by operators to transform individual attractions into complete visitor experiences.

Kamrul Baksh, GTA's director, said the additions come as demand continues to grow among international visitors, conference delegates and domestic travellers.

Between January and June 2026, more than 1,000 packaged tours were recorded, attracting over 30,000 travellers. Close to 30,000 international visitors also travelled to Guyana for meetings, conferences and exhibitions, alongside more than 21,000 local attendees.

Visitor arrivals increased by 10 per cent between January and October 2026, with Guyana on track to welcome 500,000 visitors by year-end.

15-METRE DREDGE TO SUPPORT DRAINAGE, IRRIGATION AND FISHING COMMUNITIES



$948.9 million dredge to strengthen flood control and waterway maintenance

A new $948.9 million cutter suction dredge is expected to strengthen Guyana's ability to clear silted waterways, improve drainage and reduce flooding in agricultural and residential communities.

The Ministry of Agriculture commissioned the equipment and its accompanying workboat, handing them over to the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) during a ceremony at GAICO Construction and General Services Inc.'s wharf at Nismes, West Bank Demerara.

The dredge, equipped with an 800-horsepower engine and 18-inch discharge pipes, can operate at depths of up to 15 metres and remove between 285 and 430 cubic metres of sediment per hour.

Its capacity will allow the NDIA to undertake major desilting works in rivers and outfall channels where accumulated sediment restricts water movement, including the Abary, Pomeroon, Mahaica and Mahaicony rivers.

NDIA's Chairman, Lionel Wordsworth said the equipment will also support maintenance of the country's approximately 292 sluices and associated outfall channels, as well as waterways and wharves used by fisherfolk.

Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha said the investment forms part of efforts to address longstanding drainage challenges that have contributed to flooding, agricultural losses and underused farmland.

He also disclosed that 10 new pump stations are expected to be installed across Region Three before the end of 2027. Work is also continuing on a high-level canal intended to improve drainage in the Canal Number One and Two Polders.

The contractor will provide three months of local operational training for NDIA personnel, including captains and equipment operators.

The contract was awarded in December 2024. The dredge arrived in Guyana in February 2026, while the accompanying push boat arrived in October.

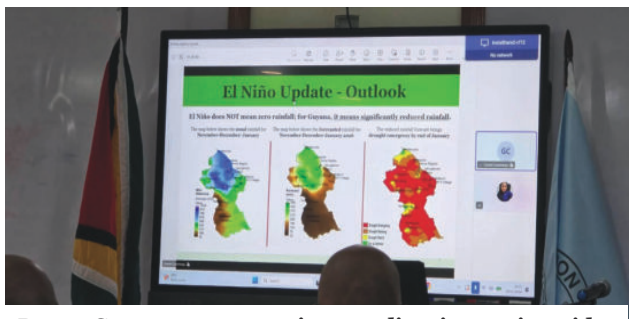
EIGHT REGIONS COMPLETE EL NIÑO CONSULTATIONS

Guyana is stepping up national preparations for El Niño conditions, with government agencies reviewing contingency measures to protect water supplies, agricultural production, livelihoods and essential services across all 10 administrative regions.

Prime Minister, Mark Phillips convened the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and key agencies to assess their readiness, available resources and response plans for prolonged dry conditions, water shortages and increased wildfire risks.

The CDC reported that preparedness and public sensitisation consultations have been completed in eight of the country's 10 regions, with Regions Seven and Eight scheduled to follow in the coming weeks.

Feedback from communities has identified the need for additional water storage tanks, new and rehabilitated wells, planting materials and supplies for shade house construction.



Prep o Government agencies coordinating nationwide response to El Niño threats (1) ngoing at the exhibition site

These priorities are particularly important for agricultural communities that depend on reliable water access to sustain crops, livestock and household needs during extended dry periods.

Representatives from the Guyana Defence Force, Guyana Fire Service, Ministry of Health, National Drainage and Irrigation Authority and agricultural agencies were among those presenting sector-specific contingency plans.

Prime Minister Phillips emphasised the importance of coordination, information sharing and community engagement, while reaffirming the government's commitment to providing resources for preparedness and response.

The CDC and its partner agencies will continue monitoring conditions and coordinating interventions, with the aim of reducing the impact of drought-related disruptions on communities and economic activity.



Berbice farmers receive equipment to expand cultivation and increase output

25 IRRIGATION PUMPS HANDED OVER TO BERBICE FARMERS TO BOOST PRODUCTION

Twenty-five farmers in the Whim/Bloomfield area of East Berbice-Corentyne have received additional support to expand cultivation, following the distribution of garden pumps by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha handed over the equipment, valued between $75,000 and $100,000 each, to help farmers improve water access, overcome irrigation challenges and increase crop production.

The Minister also disclosed that planting materials and other agricultural inputs will be provided to farmers in the area.

The support is expected to ease production costs, encourage greater cultivation and strengthen agricultural output and Guyana's food security.

PLAYERS AND COACHES WELCOME GROWING INVESTMENT IN GUYANA'S FOOTBALL FUTURE



Coach Sherwin Ceasar

Guyana's football ambitions are gaining momentum, with improved sporting facilities, expanded youth competitions and a US$25 million FIFA pledge creating new opportunities to develop players and strengthen the sport at all levels.

For local footballers and coaches, the investments represent an opportunity to improve playing conditions, access more structured training and build pathways towards national and international competition.

Santos FC Elite League player, Jaffar George said increased support could help raise the profile of the country's top football competition while giving talented players greater opportunities to advance.

He also stressed the importance of upgrading community grounds, where many young players first develop an interest in the sport.

"Some of the grounds are not so good, and some of the grounds in communities, kids also use them.... So, it will be good if the grounds can get some upgrading, we can get some talent, real talent, and get better facilities to use as well," George said.

Fellow Santos FC player, Malcolm Hendricks called for more playing fields and organised tournaments to give younger generations greater opportunities to develop their abilities.

"The government should build more pitches and host more tournaments for the younger generation so they can explore and build their football," he said.

Hendricks said he hopes to see Guyana qualify for the FIFA World Cup within the next decade.

Western Tigers FC Performance Coach, Sherwin Ceasar also pointed to the expansion of the Elite League, school competitions and other youth programmes as evidence of growing opportunities for aspiring footballers.

Having coached for three years, including two with Western Tigers, Ceasar said these initiatives are helping young players gain earlier exposure to structured training and competition.

He also welcomed the commissioning of the East Coast football facility, which he said would provide improved conditions for young players to train and compete.

Ceasar believes the US$25 million FIFA pledge could further strengthen the Guyana Football Federation's ability to expand development programmes, improve coaching and prepare players for international competition.

For players and coaches, the expectation is that sustained investment in facilities, training and competitive opportunities will help translate Guyana's growing football interest into stronger performances on the international stage.

NINE GUYANESE OFFICIALS TRAINED TO ASSESS FINANCIAL CRIME CONTROLS ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN

Guyana is strengthening its capacity to detect and combat financial crime while positioning local experts to participate in regional assessments of how effectively Caribbean countries police their financial systems.

Nine Guyanese officials were among approximately 50 participants from 16 countries and territories who completed a five-day Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) Assessors' Training Programme in Georgetown from November 9 to 13.

The programme, hosted by the Attorney General's Chambers and Ministry of Legal Affairs, equipped public-sector officials with the technical skills to assess countries' compliance with international standards targeting money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of weapons proliferation.

Importantly, participants who successfully completed the training may be considered for selection as assessors on future CFATF Mutual Evaluation teams, giving Guyana an opportunity to contribute directly to regional scrutiny of financial crime prevention systems.



Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, with the trainers and participants

The nine Guyanese participants represented the Financial Intelligence Unit, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Bank of Guyana, Gaming Authority, Special Organised Crime Unit and the Cooperatives Department.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, engaged with participants and CFATF officials during the programme, during which he emphasised the importance of regional expertise and stronger institutional capacity.

The training comes as Caribbean jurisdictions transition from the Fourth to the Fifth Round of Mutual Evaluations, with greater emphasis on whether countries are effectively identifying, investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, recovering criminal proceeds and disrupting illicit financial networks.

For Guyana, the timing is significant. The country is continuing to implement recommendations arising from its Fourth Round assessment while preparing for its November 2026 follow-up reporting and further technical compliance reviews anticipated in November 2027.

Stronger financial oversight is important to protecting the integrity of Guyana's financial system and maintaining its alignment with international standards as the economy expands and attracts greater international business activity.

80 GRADUATES BOOST CAPACITY IN PHARMACY, DENTAL CARE AND REHABILITATION

Eighty healthcare professionals have graduated from five training programmes offered by the Ministry of Health, strengthening Guyana's capacity to deliver specialised medical, dental and rehabilitative services.

The graduates were recognised at a ceremony hosted by the ministry's Health Sciences Education Division at Parc Rayne, East Bank Demerara.

The cohort includes 33 pharmacy assistants, 29 dental assistants from the 2025 and 2026 intakes, 12 dental laboratory technicians and six orthotic and prosthetic specialists.

The graduates will support services ranging from pharmaceutical assistance and oral healthcare to the production of dental appliances and rehabilitation for people with disabilities, limb loss and mobility challenges.

The qualification of 12 dental laboratory technicians also marks the revival of that training programme after several years.

The ministry said developing a skilled healthcare workforce remains essential as Guyana expands and modernises its health facilities, helping ensure that improved infrastructure is matched by qualified personnel and better patient care.



80 trained professionals prepare to support expanded healthcare services

LODGE HEALTH CENTRE RECONSTRUCTION ADDS TO GEORGETOWN'S EXPANDING HEALTHCARE NETWORK



Lodge Health Centre set for reconstruction

Residents of Lodge and surrounding communities are expected to benefit from improved access to primary healthcare, with the Ministry of Health moving to procure contractors for the reconstruction of the Lodge Health Centre.

The Ministry has invited bids under the National Competitive Bidding procedure, with contractors able to obtain tender documents through its Accounts Department at Brickdam.

The project adds to ongoing healthcare improvements across Georgetown, including the opening of the $201.8 million Charlestown Health Centre, reconstruction of the North East La Penitence Health Centre and modernisation of the Festival City Polyclinic.

The Campbellville Polyclinic is also undergoing construction.

Beyond the capital, the healthcare expansion is also reaching hinterland communities, with new facilities commissioned in Mabura, Kumu, Red Hill and Warapoka, bringing essential medical services closer to residents.

These investments are intended to improve access to routine consultations, vaccinations, maternal and child healthcare and treatment for common illnesses, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances for medical attention.

The Government allocated $161.1 billion to the health sector in 2026 to advance the modernisation and expansion of healthcare services nationwide.

NEW HOSPITAL WING, NURSES' HOSTEL PLANNED FOR MABARUMA



Region One healthcare capacity to expand with new hospital facilities

Residents across Region One are expected to benefit from expanded healthcare capacity as the government moves to construct a new wing and nurses' hostel at the Mabaruma Regional Hospital.

The Ministry of Health has invited bids for both projects, which are intended to improve patient services while providing better accommodation and working conditions for healthcare professionals serving the Barima-Waini region.

The hospital is a critical referral facility for thousands of residents, many of whom depend on it for access to essential medical services.

The planned expansion builds on a US$750,000 upgrade completed in 2022, when President Ali recommissioned the institution as Guyana's fourth Smart Healthcare facility.

NDI LECTURE EXAMINES HOW SMALL STATES CAN NAVIGATE GROWING GLOBAL RIVALRIES



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips

Guyana's growing oil wealth and economic importance do not automatically translate into greater influence among major world powers, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips has cautioned, urging small states to use multilateralism and strategic partnerships to strengthen their position in an evolving global order.

"**Today, Guyana is prosperous in this hemisphere. Yes, there is a lot of revenue,**" the Prime Minister said. However, he reminded participants that "**as a small nation...you can get resources...but your importance in relation to the great powers will improve, but not necessarily your influence."**

He was delivering remarks at the inaugural lecture of the National Defence Institute (NDI), titled *Big Powers, Small States in the Evolving World Order*, at Base Camp Ayanganna.

Prime Minister Phillips identified multilateralism as an essential avenue for smaller countries to advance their interests, safeguard their sovereignty and secure development opportunities, particularly as global power dynamics continue to shift.

He also stressed that Guyana's security considerations extend beyond traditional defence, encompassing energy, food and climate security, all of which must inform national planning and development.

The Prime Minister said the establishment of the NDI reflects the government's recognition that the country's expanding economic and geopolitical responsibilities require stronger research, scholarship and strategic thinking. He added that national development must be supported by investments in defence and security alongside social and economic improvements.

Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier Omar Khan said the institute will provide a platform for military personnel, government officials, academics and private-sector representatives to examine issues affecting national security and development.

Delivering the inaugural lecture, Professor Amitav Acharya examined the changing world order, great-power rivalry and the position of small states. He encouraged countries such as Guyana to build partnerships across areas of mutual interest rather than become overly dependent on any single global power.

The lecture series is intended to strengthen strategic dialogue, research and Guyana's capacity to respond to emerging security challenges.

MORE THAN 30,000 REGISTER FOR GUYANA DIGITAL SCHOOL

More than 30,000 students have registered for the Guyana Digital School, as the free online platform expands its reach beyond traditional classroom learning with additional academic resources and support for parents.

Education Minister, Sonia Parag disclosed the figures during the Starting Point Podcast, noting that since its launch in December 2025, the programme has grown from an initial focus on Grades 10 and 11 to serve learners across primary and secondary levels.

The platform now offers 13 subjects for students in Grades Seven to 11, alongside primary-level content to help pupils prepare for the National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA). Students can access live lessons, recorded sessions and learning materials free of charge.



Guyana Digital School expands beyond classrooms with 30,000-plus registrations

The service is also open to students across CARICOM, with the government engaging regional education officials to encourage wider participation.

Beyond academic lessons, the platform is being developed into a broader learning resource, with plans to introduce financial literacy and preparation for professional and promotional examinations.

A Parent Connect feature has also been introduced, providing guidance on supporting children's development, including teenage mental health, while allowing parents to exchange experiences and recommendations.

Parag encouraged parents, particularly those with primary-school children, to register them for additional learning support.

DIGITAL DRIVER'S TEST ATTRACTS MORE THAN 3,100 APPLICATIONS



Online driver's test opens new pathway for young Guyanese

More than 3,100 people have applied to take the driver's licence theory examination online through the Guyana Digital School, as the government moves to make the licensing process more accessible and convenient.

Minister Parag disclosed during the Starting Point Podcast that approximately 3,121 applications had been received, with more than 100 applicants already completing the examination.

Introduced on the platform in November, the service allows persons aged 16 and older to apply, pay through Mobile Money Guyana (MMG) and sit the test online at a convenient time. Applicants receive their results upon completion.

The Guyana Police Force will continue to oversee practical assessments, while the Guyana Revenue Authority remains responsible for issuing licences.

Minister Parag said the digital process is expected to improve transparency and accountability while reducing barriers for people seeking to complete the theory component.

The initiative is also being introduced in secondary schools, allowing eligible students, including those preparing for CSEC and CAPE examinations, to complete the theory test before leaving school.

STARTING UP STRONG HELPS SEVEN MORE PEOPLE PURSUE FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

Seven people facing difficult circumstances have received equipment through the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security's Starting Up Strong initiative, aimed at helping them establish or expand small businesses and earn a sustainable income.

The items, distributed through the ministry's Difficult Circumstances Unit (DCU), included freezers, tables, a chicken-plucking machine and a gas engine.

The assistance is intended to remove some of the financial barriers that prevent individuals from acquiring the tools needed to operate a business, support their families and become more financially independent.

Launched four years ago, Starting Up Strong has assisted hundreds of beneficiaries, particularly women, although men have also received support.

The ministry maintains contact with recipients to monitor their progress and assess how the equipment is contributing to the development of their businesses.

The latest distribution forms part of efforts to help vulnerable individuals build livelihoods and improve their financial security.



Seven beneficiaries receive equipment to build small businesses

Guyana rejects talks with Venezuela over Essequibo, awaits ICJ ruling

Guyana has ruled out bilateral negotiations with Venezuela over the disputed Essequibo region, maintaining that the longstanding border controversy must be resolved by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Hugh Todd reaffirmed the government's position in a statement late Friday, saying Guyana remains committed to the judicial process and will abide by the court's ruling.

Todd said a judgment could come as early as the first quarter of 2027, expressing confidence that the 1899 Arbitral Award establishing the boundary between Guyana and Venezuela would be upheld.

The minister described the award as "perfect, final, and complete," reiterating Guyana's position that the internationally established boundary remains valid and binding.

His comments follow reports that a former senior U.S. State Department official had raised the possibility of territorial discussions between the two countries, including a proposal that could see Venezuela gain partial control of Essequibo.

Todd said Guyana's Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud had made clear during discussions with the former U.S. official that Georgetown would pursue only the outcome of the ICJ proceedings.

"Those discussions were minuted, and we, at the Foreign Ministry, are in possession of those notes," Todd said.

The minister also pointed to statements issued by Guyana's Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown following the reports.

According to Todd, Washington has assured Guyana that its position on the border controversy remains unchanged, while the U.S. Embassy has reaffirmed its support for the proceedings before the ICJ.

Todd said the U.S. statement identified two possible avenues for altering the boundary: a determination by a competent authority or bilateral discussions between Guyana and Venezuela.

He maintained that Guyana considers the ICJ to be the competent authority under Article 4(2) of the 1966 Geneva Agreement and would not entertain negotiations over the territorial dispute.

"Guyana has been very clear and very firm that we will not hold any bilateral discussions with Venezuela with regard to their controversy over the 1899 Arbitral Award," Todd said.

"We remain committed to the process, we remain committed to the rule of international law, and we do hereby encourage Venezuela to also commit to the rule of international law."

The Essequibo region, which covers approximately two-thirds of Guyana's territory, has been at the center of a longstanding dispute between Guyana and Venezuela.

Venezuela maintains a claim to the resource-rich region, while Guyana insists that the boundary established by the 1899 Arbitral Award is legally binding.

Guyana brought the case before the ICJ in 2018, seeking confirmation of the validity of the award and the boundary it established.

The court held hearings on the merits of the case in May 2026 and is now considering its judgment.

Todd urged Guyanese citizens to remain patient as the country awaits a ruling, emphasizing that the government would not depart from its legal position.

"I ask Guyanese to be patient and to remain focused on our future as a sovereign and independent country," he said.



Foreign Affairs Minister Hugh Todd



GUYANA EARNS GOLD CUP QUALIFICATION AND PROMOTION TO NATIONS LEAGUE A



President Ali in attendance as Golden Jaguars book Gold Cup place with emphatic win over Puerto Rico

Guyana's Golden Jaguars have secured qualification for the Concacaf Gold Cup after defeating Puerto Rico 4-2 at the National Track and Field Centre in Leonora, with President Ali joining supporters to celebrate the victory.

The result confirmed Guyana's promotion to Concacaf Nations League A and extended the team's unbeaten run in the League B group stage.

Following the match, President Ali met with the players and coaching staff, assuring them that the Government and the wider nation stand behind the national team.

He wished the squad well in its upcoming fixtures and pledged financial support for both the senior men's and women's national teams to assist with preparations for future tournaments.

The qualification marks another opportunity for Guyana to compete among the region's leading football nations, while giving the Golden Jaguars a platform to test themselves against stronger Concacaf opposition.

REGION SIX YOUTH GET NEW PLATFORM FOR BOXING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Young boxers in Region Six now have a dedicated facility to develop their skills and pursue competitive opportunities with the opening of the Michael Anthony Parris Boxing Gym in New Amsterdam.

Named in honour of Guyana's only Olympic boxing medallist, the facility is intended to strengthen grassroots boxing while providing young people with a structured pathway from introductory training to national and international competition.

At the opening ceremony, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson Jr. said the gym's purpose extends beyond producing successful boxers, placing equal importance on discipline, character and personal development.

"**I don't want you to come to this gym just to become a better boxer. I want you to come to this gym to become a better person,**" he told attendees.



Parris-named boxing gym aims to develop young athletes beyond the ring

Minister Ramson outlined a four-stage development pathway encompassing participation, athlete development, competition and sporting excellence. This will guide young fighters from fitness and technical training to amateur bouts, national tournaments and potential international representation.

He also said the facility's design could be replicated in other communities, creating opportunities for more young people to access structured sporting programmes.

The project was pursued by local boxing coach Jeff Roberts, who first raised the proposal during a presidential outreach in 2023 and continued advocating for its implementation.

Roberts, who has spent decades mentoring young boxers, said the sport provides an opportunity to positively influence young people regardless of their background.

"**Once they come into my hands, I transform them**," he said.

The opening gives Region Six another platform for youth engagement and sporting development, while carrying the name of Michael Parris, whose Olympic achievement remains a landmark in Guyana's sporting history.

16 GUYANESE CRICKETERS BEGIN HIGH-PERFORMANCE TRAINING PROGRAMME IN PAKISTAN

Sixteen Guyanese cricketers are in Pakistan for a four-week high-performance training programme at the Lahore Qalandars Academy, gaining access to specialised coaching and performance facilities as they prepare to compete at higher levels.

The initiative follows discussions between President Ali and Lahore Qalandars executives, which secured the players an opportunity to benefit from the academy's international development programme.

Training will focus on technical skills, physical conditioning and overall performance, with assessments covering biomechanics, bat speed, speed analysis, laboratory testing and nutrition.

The programme is expected to expose the players to modern training methods while strengthening their understanding of the demands of competitive cricket.

It also creates an opportunity for participants to be assessed by talent scouts associated with the Lahore Qalandars, potentially opening pathways to further international exposure and professional opportunities.

The partnership forms part of wider efforts to strengthen Guyana's cricket development through international collaboration, alongside continued investment in sporting infrastructure and athlete development.



Lahore Qalandars Academy to train 16 Guyanese players over four weeks

MEN ON MISSION GRAND PRIX COMBINES COMPETITIVE SPORT WITH FREE HEALTH SERVICES

Cycling and running competitions are bringing sport, health awareness and community activity to Georgetown, with the Men on Mission (MoM) Grand Prix offering participants more than a chance to compete for prizes.

Held along Main Street, the three-Sunday initiative combines eight Golden Mile races across male and female categories with six cycling events



Three-round Grand Prix promotes healthier lifestyles through sport and community participation

competition levels.

The elite cycling category carries a $500,000 grand prize, with competitors accumulating points across three rounds to determine the overall winners. The next round is scheduled for November 22.

Beyond competition, the event provides free health checks, eye care services and yoga sessions, alongside local food vendors, encouraging greater public participation in healthier lifestyles.

Prime Minister, Mark Phillips commended the Men on Mission organisers, urging spectators to take advantage of the available health services and support local vendors.

National Coordinator, Lieutenant Colonel Bhageshwar Murli said the expanded Grand Prix programme was developed following the success of an earlier race, with the aim of attracting more participants and creating a broader community experience.

GUYANESE DIASPORA DIGEST
KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED

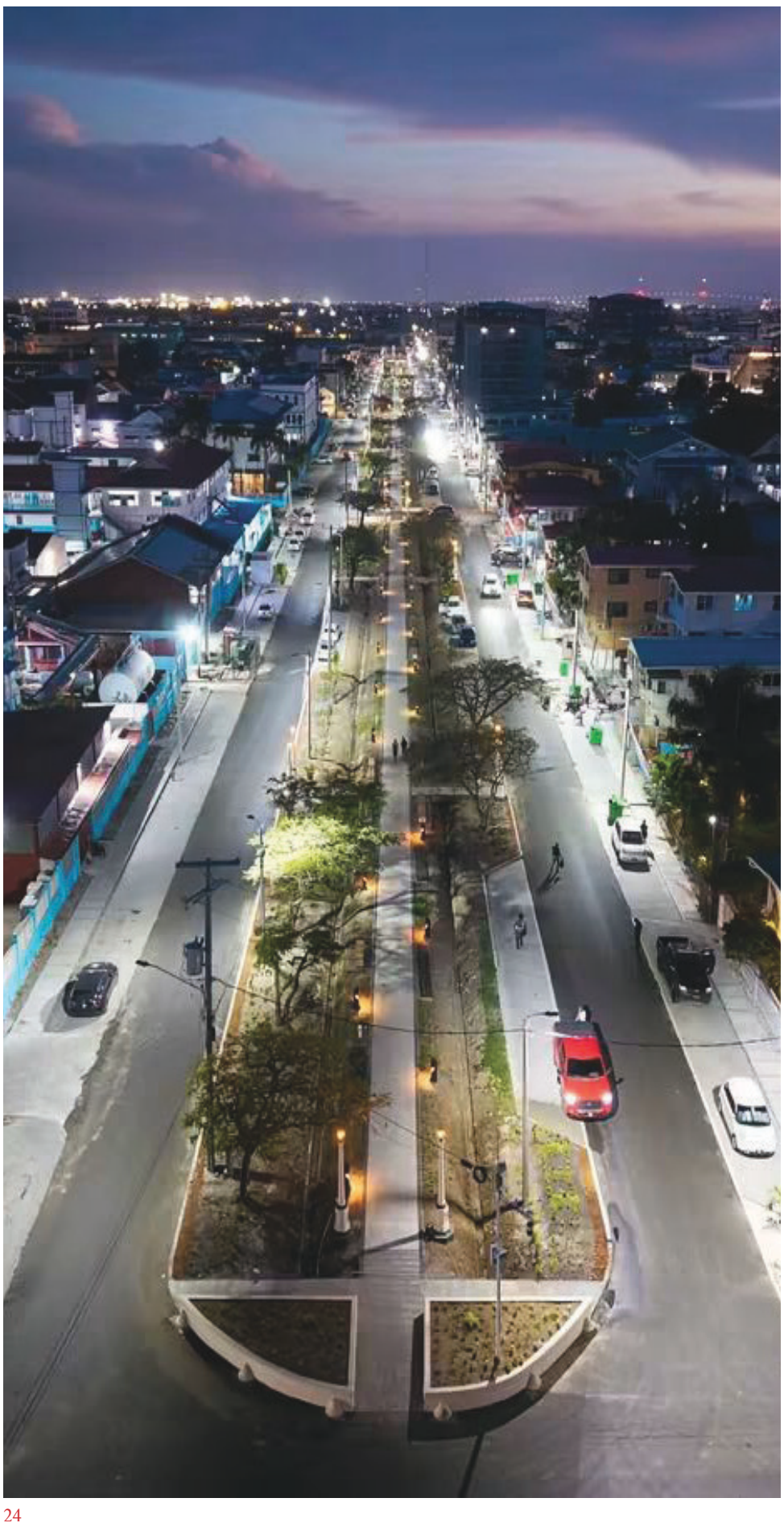
Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST

KEEPING THE DIASPORA INFORMED EDITION 132

THOMAS STREET TAKES ON A REFRESHED LOOK

Enhancement works along Thomas Street Avenue in Georgetown are reshaping the area, with improvements aimed at creating a cleaner, greener and more inviting public space.

The project, supported by the King's Foundation, forms part of the wider Georgetown Beautification Project, which is focused on revitalising the capital, improving its urban landscape and creating more attractive spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.









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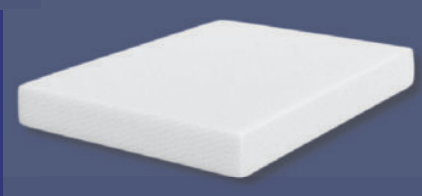

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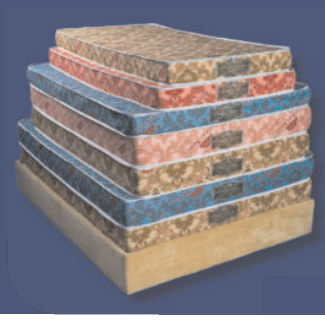

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TOURISM AWARENESS MONTH 2026
NOVEMBER 1 - 30

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
The Launch of Tourism Awareness Month	Oct 31	Aiden Hotel, Georgetown
Tourism Is Everybody's Business Campaign	Nov 1 - 30	Online/Physical
Communications/PR-Advertising & Marketing Support, Banners, Videos, Ads	Nov 1 - 30	Online/Physical
TOURVEMBER	Nov 1 - 30	Discounted curated tour packages across Destination Guyana
Clean Up Exercise	Nov 1	Kara Kara Blue Lake
Guyana for $10,000	Nov 1 - 20	Online
World Travel Market	Nov 3 - 5	Excel, London
Launch of GuyWay	Nov 6	Four Points by Sheraton
Radio Broadcast & Trivia	Nov 6, 13, 20 & 27	Georgetown & Linden
Bauxite to Blue Adventure Family Quest	Nov 8	Linden, Region 10
Global Tourism Forum	Nov 9	Brussels, Belgium
Business Proposal Writing Training	Nov 11	Region 2, Guyana
Tourism Village at GuyExpo	Nov 12 - 15	National Exhibition Centre, Sophia
School Outreach	Nov 16 - 27	Region 10

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Tourism Product Launch	Nov 18	Georgetown
Birding Exploration	Nov 18 & 19	Linden, Region 10
Launch of Rif's Hotel	Nov 20	Anna Regina, Region 2
Canvas & Cassava: A Cultural Experience.	Nov 20	Lake Capoey, Region 2
Media Familiarization Tour	Nov 20 - 22	Region 2
Taxi Driver Ambassador Training Programme	Nov 23	Georgetown, Guyana
Launch of WildKai	Nov 25	Bartica, Region 7
South Rupununi Safari	Nov 25 - 30	South Rupununi
Snap and Share Video Edition Awards Ceremony	Nov 26	ACCC
Rupununi Expo	Nov 28 - 29	Lethem, Region 9
Bauxite to Blue Biz Mixer	Nov 28	Linden, Region 10
Christmas Tree Light Up	Nov 29	Rahaman's Park, Region 4
Clean Up Exercise	Nov 29	Demerara Riverfront, Linden, Region 10
Small Business Bureau Awards Ceremony	Nov 30	Four Points by Sheraton
Diaspora Symposium	Nov 30	Hybrid
Launch of Christmas Village, Main Street	Dec 4	Main Street, Georgetown
Tourism Awards and Hall of Fame	Dec 12	Lethem, Region 9



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