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The transformative Guyana Development Bank is set to be operationalised on October 5, capitalised at US\$100 million, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali announced on Monday at a press conference. Through affordable financing options, including zero-interest and zero-collateral loans of up to G\$3 million, the development bank will support Guyanese seeking to establish or expand businesses in key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, services and technology.



Wealthy citizens tied to crime: Kamla

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has put what she described as the country's wealthy drug mafia on notice, promising to go after "filthy, greedy" gangs operating out of Westmoorings, St Clair and Federation Park who she says are flooding Trinidad and Tobago with illegal drugs and guns.

She has also warned criminals, their supporters and their families that the end of the state of emergency (SoE) on September 17 will not bring an end to Government's aggressive crime fight. In a social media statement on Monday, Persad-Bissessar disclosed what she said was classified data provided to the National Security Council by law enforcement, showing that 5,802 people were arrested and 3,552, or 61.2%, were charged during the "highly successful" six-month SoE period. She stated that the "primary threat" was reduced and crime was down across all police divisions. The PM said that, over the last three decades, Trinidad and Tobago went from a place of peace to a "lawless dump" because some citizens believed there were no consequences for bad behaviour. She said the average citizen was subjected to the heavy hand of the law, while the "eat-a-food fake elite and politically connected" received special privileges and treatment.

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Extension of fuel tax suspension part of the 'affordability plan': Feds

By Milan Maharaj

LJI REPORTER

The federal government has decided to extend its temporary suspension of the federal fuel excise tax to continue providing Canadian consumers with relief from higher costs amid economic uncertainties.

As stated in the Sept. 8 announcement, the federal government said the federal excise tax on gasoline, diesel and aviation fuels would be suspended until Jan. 31, 2027, after which it will come back into effect at half of its normal rate for two months before it goes up to its normal rate again on April 1, 2027.

The extension is anticipated to

bring more savings worth \$2.9 billion, making the total savings from the temporary suspension amount to \$5.3 billion for the 2026-27 fiscal year, according to the federal government.

It is worthy to note that the temporary suspension of the fuel excise tax was introduced on April 20, 2026, when the federal excise tax rate was reduced by 10 cents per litre on gasoline and unleaded aviation gasoline, 11 cents on leaded aviation gasoline, and four cents on diesel and aviation fuel. According to the government, the price of gas went down by 11 cents per litre on the first day of the suspension.

With the most recent extension, Canadians will enjoy the full benefits of the suspension until January. From Feb-



The government has paused the federal gas tax until January

March 31, 2027, the federal tax will be charged five cents per litre for gasoline and unleaded aviation gasoline, 5.5 cents for leaded aviation gasoline and two cents for diesel and aviation fuel.

Starting from April 1, the federal excise tax rate will revert back to normal. The rate for gasoline and unleaded aviation gasoline will be ten cents per litre, eleven cents for leaded aviation gasoline and four cents per litre for diesel and aviation fuel.

According to the government, the new tax measure is aimed at assisting families in dealing with their daily expenditures and the industries reliant on fuel consumption. Trucking, agricultural, food processing, construction, housing and delivery industries will benefit from this measure, among others.

For the companies, the cost of fuel is not limited to transportation. Moving goods around the country may increase business operation costs due to high fuel prices and in turn, these costs can reflect upon the consumer price.

This move is coming amid ongoing economic uncertainties in the country, which have been linked to international developments. The federal government has identified the newly announced U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods, as well as the conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, among other causes of such uncertainties and increased expenses.

It is also a part of the affordability plan that the government has been implementing. The government has identified other measures meant to cut costs for people in Canada, including tax cuts, the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit, and support to some first-time buyers of homes.

The federal consumer carbon price

is now not in operation following its cancellation by the government as of April 1, 2025. The government claims that this has led to lower fuel costs across all the provinces and territories compared to last year.

This recent increase in the fuel-tax exemption comes amidst a period in which transport continues to be a significant cost for many Canadian families. Individuals who use private cars for traveling, domestic purposes, and even for other routine tasks may be significantly affected by the cost of gas.

For individuals residing in remote regions, the effect can be equally significant since such areas are characterized by long-distance travel and fewer options for public transport.

Canadian businesses using diesel and aviation fuel will benefit as well from this exemption. This reduction in the price of fuel means a decrease in costs of transport for various businesses, but this depends on each business and industry.

The federal government says that this temporary tax relief is meant to offer some assistance in the meantime that the government works to enhance the economy of the country. This can help both households and businesses cope with economic challenges in times of international economic change.

This temporary extension, however, will end, with the full federal excise tax coming back into effect on April 1, 2027, which may mean that Canadians will experience higher fuel taxes in the future when this tax relief measure expires.

In any case, for the time being, motorists and businesses will enjoy this full tax relief for several more months. According to the Ottawa government, the reason for this decision was to help bring stability during the economically uncertain times and give households and businesses in Canada more space to deal with rising costs.

Considering the federal government's estimate that this tax relief will cost billions of dollars in total, this extended suspension certainly is a considerable investment in temporary affordability. Whether this will be long-lasting will ultimately depend on the fuel prices and other economic factors in Canada in 2027.

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PRESIDENT ALI'S QATAR VISIT OPENS NEW FRONTS FOR GUYANA'S INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

PAGE 2



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Amir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, meet at the Amiri Diwan in Doha to discuss stronger bilateral ties, with investment identified as a key area for deeper cooperation.



£3 BILLION IN UK FINANCING STILL UP FOR GRABS BY GUYANESE BUSINESSES

PAGE 5



NEW MINERAL AGREEMENT ADVANCES EAGLE MOUNTAIN TOWARD PRODUCTION

PAGE 4



GUYANA TO TRAIN CARIBBEAN'S NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS

PAGE 8

PRESIDENT ALI'S QATAR VISIT OPENS NEW FRONTS FOR GUYANA'S INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



President Ali met with the Minister of Commerce and Industry, HE Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al Thani

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's three-day State Visit to Qatar is positioning Guyana to attract new investment, strengthen economic partnerships and expand access to international markets, as the country continues to build on President Ali's

technical team will visit the country within the next 30 days to assess opportunities.

With 267 stores across the Gulf region and a global sourcing network spanning 85 countries, LuLu's

on opportunities for collaboration in the energy sector as Guyana continues to develop its oil and gas resources while pursuing broader energy security and industrial development goals.



President Ali and the Amir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held official talks

interest could create new avenues for Guyanese producers and exporters to access regional and international markets while generating direct investment opportunities at home.

Efforts to expand financing options for development and business growth also featured prominently. Guyana and Qatar explored potential

The visit also opened discussions on climate finance and carbon markets. Talks with Qatar's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie, focused on climate change, biodiversity protection and potential cooperation on carbon credits, an area in which Guyana has



President Ali held a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, HE Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie

its rapid economic transformation.

The visit has brought Guyana's growing investment potential directly before some of Qatar's leading government officials, investors and business executives, with discussions centred on opportunities that could unlock new capital, financing, trade and commercial activity.

Among the key

discussions with QIA Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Saif al-Sowaidi focused on deepening that relationship and identifying new areas for investment.

The President also secured a commitment from LuLu Group International, one of the Middle East's largest retail and investment conglomerates. During talks with Chairman and



President Ali at Guyana's 60th Independence Anniversary, hosted by Guyana's Ambassador to Qatar, HE Safraaz Shadood, and the Guyana Embassy in Doha

collaboration between the Qatar Development Bank and the Guyana Development Bank, as well as discussions surrounding an investment fund and other financing mechanisms that could support economic activity and private-sector expansion.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIPS

Energy cooperation emerged as another important area of engagement.

President Ali held discussions with Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs, Saad Sherida Al Kaabi,

gained international recognition through its Low Carbon Development Strategy.

EXPANDING TRADE AND GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY

Trade, private-sector partnerships and market access were also high on the agenda.

President Ali's engagement with Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al Thani, examined opportunities in food security, mining, digital transformation and infrastructure, while exploring ways to strengthen commercial links between businesses



President Ali toured Education City in Al Rayyan, Qatar

in both countries.

Improved connectivity was another strategic focus.

Discussions with Qatar Airways Chair and Group Chief Executive Officer Hamad Al Khater explored the possibility of establishing passenger and cargo services between Guyana and Qatar. Such a connection would provide Guyana with a direct gateway to the Middle East and

the UMAMI product line in Qatar during a Guyana Independence 60th Anniversary event hosted by the Guyana Embassy in Doha.

Held under the theme "Building Guyana's Global Brand," the event highlighted local entrepreneurship and created a platform for Guyanese products to enter and expand within the Qatari market.

Collectively, the



President Ali met with Chief Executive Officer of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), Mohammed Saif al-Sowaidi



President Irfaan Ali met with the Chair and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group International, M. A. Yusuff Ali

beyond, strengthening trade, tourism and logistics links with global markets.

At the highest political level, President Ali and the Amir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral relations, particularly in areas that can drive investment, economic growth and development.

Guyana's commercial ambitions were also showcased through the launch of

engagements reflect a relationship that is increasingly centred on economic cooperation and mutual growth. For Guyana, the visit represents more than diplomatic engagement—it is a strategic effort to attract investment, expand financing opportunities, strengthen energy and climate partnerships, improve international connectivity and create new opportunities for Guyanese businesses and exporters in global markets.



President Ali and the Amir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani held official talks

engagements was a Managing Director M. A. Yusuff Ali, the company Investment Authority expressed interest in investing in Guyana and announced that a



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali secured a second term in 2025 and was sworn in on September 7

One year into President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's second term, the Government is pointing to a growing list of projects and services as evidence that Guyana's oil wealth is being converted into tangible benefits for citizens, from major bridges and hinterland airstrips to robotic surgery and new financing for businesses. The clearest symbol is the Bharrat Jagdeo Demerara River Bridge, commissioned weeks after the President was sworn in for a second term in September 2025. The

ONE YEAR INTO SECOND TERM, OIL WEALTH TAKES SHAPE IN BRIDGES, SURGERY AND OPPORTUNITY

new crossing replaced the aged Demerara Harbour Bridge and provides commuters with uninterrupted 24-hour access across the Demerara River.

"Oil revenues, wisely managed, are being converted into structures like this," President Ali said at the commissioning.

The administration has simultaneously pushed healthcare into territory once considered out of reach. In May, a Georgetown-based surgeon participated in robotic telesurgery on a patient in India, roughly 20,000 kilometres away, with additional procedures conducted in June.

That technological leap has been accompanied by an aggressive expansion of connectivity.

The Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge is on

track for completion in October, while the expanded Aubrey Barker Road has strengthened links between South Ruimveldt, the East Bank and East Coast corridors.

Beyond the coast, major investments are opening new access to

Six and Nine.

Economic opportunity is also a major component of the Government's second-term agenda. The newly established Guyana Development Bank is designed to provide small and medium-sized businesses with zero-



The Wismar-Mackenzie Bridge in Region 10



New hinterland airstrips

hinterland communities. Four airstrips, Karasabai, Paramakatoi, Aishalton and Anna Regina/Mainstay, have been commissioned, while municipal airports are planned for Regions

interest, no-collateral financing, backed by US\$100 million from the \$1.558 trillion 2026 Budget.

Meanwhile, Georgetown is set for a \$2.8 billion enhancement

programme targeting markets, historic buildings and public spaces, alongside plans for the redevelopment of the Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

The Government has also taken its development agenda directly into communities through the Model Village Initiative and regional outreaches. Twenty-three villages across five regions have been engaged, while President Ali has led outreaches in Regions Three, Four, Six, Seven and Ten.

Sports infrastructure has expanded as well, with the commissioning of the Anna Regina and Bayroc International stadiums and the opening of Guyana-China Friendship Park.

Far from slowing, the development agenda is gathering pace, with the Government using the first year of its second term to lay the groundwork for continued investment, stronger public services and the delivery of major commitments over the next four years.



VP Jagdeo puts public officials on notice over procurement, spending violations

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo has put senior public sector officials on notice, warning that breaches of procurement rules, financial regulations and management standards will attract

VP ORDERS STRONGER COMPLIANCE MEASURES ACROSS MINISTRIES AND REGIONS

consequences as the government intensifies efforts to strengthen accountability across state institutions.

The Vice President delivered the message during a high-level meeting at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre attended by ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Regional Executive Officers, accounting officers from key semi-autonomous agencies and other senior officials.

The engagement focused on measures to



VP Jagdeo puts public officials on notice over procurement, spending violations

improve management practices across ministries, regions and public agencies, with particular emphasis on transparency,

procurement compliance, government payment systems and public communication.

VP Jagdeo underscored the critical

role of Permanent Secretaries and Regional Executive Officers in safeguarding public resources and ensuring strict adherence to the laws and regulations governing public administration.

He also outlined initiatives aimed at improving the monitoring and tracking of compliance within procurement and payment systems, while cautioning officials that violations and misconduct would not be tolerated.

The Vice President reaffirmed the PPP/C Government's commitment to modernising public service delivery through greater use of technology and stronger administrative systems.

The reforms, he said, are intended to ensure citizens receive more efficient services, greater transparency from public institutions and a higher standard of governance that ultimately improves quality of life.

400-SQUARE-FOOT UNITS PLANNED FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES

For Guyanese who remain locked out of the conventional housing market, the government is moving to create a more direct path to safe and adequate shelter through a new push to construct 400-square-foot homes for the country's most vulnerable households.

The Ministry of Housing and Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA) are advancing the Social Housing Programme, targeting extremely vulnerable and economically

disadvantaged families who may otherwise have little realistic prospect of securing a home.

The proposed one-bedroom units are designed to provide the essentials of a decent home without placing the cost of conventional housing within reach. Each flat will include a bedroom, toilet and bath, tiled floors and basic kitchen cupboards.

CH&PA has now opened the door for contractors, consortiums and individuals to submit Expressions of

Interest to construct the units, signalling the next phase of the programme as government seeks to turn the housing commitment into homes on the ground.

The initiative comes against the backdrop of a broader national housing drive, but with a specific focus on households least able to benefit from traditional housing opportunities.

Prospective builders must demonstrate the technical and financial capacity to deliver the homes, including

evidence of previous similar work, equipment and qualified personnel, audited financial statements, financing arrangements and detailed construction plans.

The requirements also call for clear specifications on materials, construction methods, costs and work schedules, placing emphasis on both delivery and the ability to execute the projects properly.

Expressions of Interest must reach the



Various models of the 400-square-foot homes under the Social Housing Programme

CH&PA Board by 3 p.m. on September 21, 2026. At its core, the programme is aimed at one of the most basic gaps

in social development: ensuring that poverty and vulnerability do not permanently translate into inadequate housing.

NEW MINERAL AGREEMENT ADVANCES EAGLEMOUNTAIN TOWARD PRODUCTION

The development of the Eagle Mountain Gold Project has taken a significant step forward with the signing of a Mineral Agreement that sets the framework for construction to begin in the third quarter of 2027 and gold production to commence by the end of 2028, pending all regulatory and environmental approvals.

The agreement, executed between the Government of Guyana, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), Mako Mining Corp. and its wholly owned subsidiary Stronghold Guyana Inc., establishes the legal, fiscal and operational terms governing the project's development.

Located near Mahdia in Region Eight (Potaro-Siparuni), Eagle Mountain is now moving from the exploration and planning stage toward becoming a producing gold operation, creating opportunities for employment, contracting and business participation within Guyana's mining sector.

Mako Mining, a Canadian-based company with more than a decade of experience operating in Guyana, has already commenced preparatory activities ahead of the construction phase.



Government of Guyana signs mineral agreement with Mako Mining for Eagle Mountain Gold Project

The project is expected to generate wider economic benefits by creating jobs, supporting skills development and increasing opportunities for local businesses. As

development progresses, Guyanese contractors, suppliers and service providers are expected to play an important role in both the construction and operational phases. In addition to

outlining the project's commercial framework, the Mineral Agreement includes commitments related to environmental management, community development and social investment.

These provisions are intended to ensure that the project delivers long-term benefits while safeguarding Guyana's environmental and national interests.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, GGMC and other relevant agencies will continue to work closely with Mako Mining throughout the development process and monitor compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

With construction scheduled to begin in 2027 and first gold targeted for 2028, Eagle Mountain is positioned to become one of Guyana's next major mining developments, supporting economic growth and expanding opportunities for Guyanese workers and businesses.

GUYANA TO HOST CARIBBEAN TOURISM SUMMIT AS VISITOR ARRIVALS SURGE TOWARD 500,000



Guyana targets 500,000 visitors as Caribbean tourism leaders arrive

Guyana will take centre stage in the Caribbean tourism industry next month when Georgetown hosts the region's premier tourism conference for the first time, as the country's visitor arrivals surge toward a projected 500,000 this year.

The Caribbean

Tourism Organisation's (CTO) State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC) will bring regional tourism leaders, policymakers and industry stakeholders to Guyana from October 5 to 9, placing the country's rapidly expanding tourism sector before key

decision-makers from across the Caribbean and beyond.

The timing comes as Guyana records unprecedented growth in visitor arrivals. More than 271,000 visitors entered the country during the first seven months of 2026, while July alone recorded more than 45,000 arrivals, the highest ever recorded for that month.

With December traditionally the strongest month for arrivals, the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce is targeting more than 500,000 visitors for the year.

Minister Susan Rodrigues said the figures reflect a

fundamental shift in Guyana's position within the regional tourism market.

"Guyana is no longer an emerging destination for tourism, but a destination that is competitive and sustainable," Minister Rodrigues said.

Hosting SOTIC gives Guyana an opportunity to capitalise on that momentum by placing its destinations, tourism products and investment opportunities directly before regional tourism leaders and private-sector stakeholders.

The conference is also expected to create greater exposure for local

operators, including accommodation providers, restaurants, tour companies, transportation businesses, guides, artisans and other entrepreneurs that stand to benefit from a larger visitor market.

Government has been expanding tourism infrastructure and accommodation, investing in skills training and capacity building, and developing a national events calendar aimed at increasing visitor traffic throughout the year.

Minister Rodrigues has also stressed the importance of ensuring tourism growth generates income

beyond hotels and major tourism establishments. Rising visitor numbers create demand for farmers supplying hotels and restaurants, taxi operators, tour guides, artisans, entertainers and small businesses, while community-based tourism and smaller locally operated accommodations are being promoted.

The CTO conference therefore comes at a critical point for Guyana's tourism industry, as the country seeks to turn rapid visitor growth into sustained investment, stronger local businesses and wider economic participation.

AG NANDLALL FLAGS WEAK INVESTIGATIONS, ANNOUNCES OVERHAUL OF 1898 EVIDENCE ACT

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandall has warned that weak investigations are undermining criminal prosecutions, telling prosecutors, investigators and law enforcement officials that successful convictions depend on stronger, coordinated work across the justice system.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day training programme on Criminal Practice and Procedure, AG Nandall

said prosecutors are too often left trying to build cases without the evidence needed to secure convictions.

"It's us against the criminals and I would like us to see it like that," he told participants. **"It can't be the prosecutors alone breaking their back in the courts."**

The Attorney General said shortcomings at the investigative stage continue to affect the quality of cases reaching the courts.

"We have



PACE Justice Project is designed to address crucial issues in the criminal justice system of several jurisdictions across the Caribbean

investigators who do not do the type of investigations necessary to yield the results that we would like to see," he stated.

The training, organised by Director of Public Prosecutions Shalimar Ali-Hack under the European Union-funded and UNDP-

executed PACE Justice Project, brought together prosecutors, police legal advisers, investigators and attorneys from across the justice sector.

AG Nandall also announced that public consultations on a new Evidence Act are expected to begin shortly, marking a major step towards replacing Guyana's 1898 evidentiary framework.

Describing the existing law as inadequate for modern litigation, he said the proposed legislation will

modernise how evidence is handled in courts and other proceedings, including in response to technological advances.

"The draft is complete and it will transform the evidential architecture and landscape of the country," he said.

AG Nandall also reminded prosecutors that their duty is to the State and the wider public interest, while safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

£3 BILLION IN UK FINANCING STILL UP FOR GRABS BY GUYANESE BUSINESSES



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

Guyanese businesses have been urged to take greater advantage of a £3 billion United Kingdom-backed financing facility available to support investment in equipment, technology, infrastructure and other goods and services, with Government signalling that significant financing remains untapped. Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, issued the call as he addressed a private-sector workshop hosted by the British High Commission and UK Export Finance (UKEF) at the World Trade Centre in Kingston, Georgetown.

The facility, expanded to £3 billion in October 2025, is designed to support businesses procuring goods and services from UK companies. Dr Singh described the expansion as a strong vote of confidence in the commercial opportunities emerging in Guyana. Importantly, he said, the overwhelming majority of the financing remains available, with Guyana having utilised only a small fraction of the facility to date. The Government is now encouraging local firms to look beyond traditional domestic borrowing and tap international financing to support expansion, particularly in sectors

such as renewable energy, transport infrastructure, healthcare and agriculture. Dr Singh pointed to the sharp increase in private-sector credit since 2020 as evidence of the scale of business activity generated during Guyana's rapid economic expansion. Credit to the private sector more than doubled between the end of 2020 and the end of 2025, with strong demand recorded across agriculture, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, services and real estate mortgages. At the same time, non-performing loans



British High Commissioner Joseph Fisher

fell dramatically, from 10.8 per cent in 2020 to 1.3 per cent in 2025. For Dr Singh, the combination of rising credit demand and falling non-performing loans points to a private sector generating projects that are increasingly capable of attracting financing. He called for even greater dynamism from the financial sector, urging local banks to adopt more accommodative lending positions while maintaining prudent lending standards. Businesses, meanwhile, were encouraged to broaden their financing options, including through UKEF. One of the facility's attractions is its relatively flexible sourcing requirement. Companies need only a minimum of 20 per cent of the goods and services being financed to be sourced from UK businesses. UKEF officials told participants that financing can be mobilised in more than 60 currencies, including US dollars, pounds sterling and euros. Support can come through bank guarantees, with UKEF acting as a credit enhancer to reduce borrowing costs, or, in limited circumstances, through direct fixed-rate lending. The Standard Buyer Loan Guarantee and Guarantee for Repeat Orders can finance up to 85 per cent of a contract, typically supporting bank financing between £1 million and £30 million. The workshop therefore placed a substantial financing opportunity directly before Guyanese companies at a time when demand for capital is expanding rapidly.



Guyanese businesses urged to tap £3 Billion UK Financing Facility

British High Commissioner Joseph Fisher noted that the financing discussions come as Guyana and the UK mark 60 years of diplomatic relations and bilateral trade continues to grow, with Guyana remaining the UK's largest trading partner in the Commonwealth Caribbean by a substantial margin.



Guyanese businesses urged to tap £3 Billion UK Financing Facility

GUYANA, JAPAN SET SIGHTS ON BIGGER ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh, Japan's State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iwao Horii, and Japanese officials

Guyana is seeking to deepen its economic relationship with Japan, with Government pushing for increased Japanese investment, technology, trade and private-sector participation as the country undergoes rapid economic expansion. The push featured prominently in high-level discussions between Senior Minister in the Office of the President

very interested in exploring how we can achieve deeper economic and commercial and trade ties, and having more Japanese companies present in Guyana," Dr. Singh said. He pointed to Japan's industrial strength, advanced technology and the expertise of its companies as areas from which Guyana could benefit as investment and development accelerate across multiple sectors. Horii, meanwhile, acknowledged Guyana's "remarkable economic growth" and said Japan attaches importance to strengthening relations with the country. The discussions covered investment, trade, technical cooperation, climate change, energy, water and sanitation, as well as peace and security.

Japan is already supporting several areas of Guyana's development, including through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Earlier this year, the two countries signed a concessional agreement to upgrade water treatment infrastructure at Diamond on the East Bank of Demerara, with JICA support for construction of the Diamond Water Treatment Plant. Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud, who also met with Horii, described Japan as a consistent and reliable development partner and highlighted its assistance in disaster management, energy, climate change, water and sanitation. He also identified scope for greater private-sector cooperation, particularly in trade and investment.



Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud also met with Horii

The economic relationship is already gaining momentum, with Horii noting increased Japanese investment in Guyana, particularly in the oil and gas sector. The talks come as Guyana seeks to broaden the sources of investment and expertise supporting its transformation, while creating stronger links between local and international businesses. Both sides are also looking ahead to 2027, when Guyana and Japan will commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations.

The anniversary is expected to provide an opportunity to shape a more strategic direction for bilateral cooperation. For Guyana, the immediate opportunity is to convert the long standing development partnership with Japan into a broader economic relationship, bringing more Japanese capital, companies, technology and expertise into a market undergoing one of the Caribbean's most significant periods of economic expansion.

MV BARIMA INQUIRY CALLS FOR EVIDENCE AS INVESTIGATION DEEPENS

The Commission of Inquiry established to uncover what led to the tragic capsizing of the MV Barima is moving closer to public hearings, as investigators intensify efforts to establish what happened, why it happened and what must change to prevent another maritime disaster.

The Commission, appointed on July 30, 2026, has been laying the groundwork for a thorough and independent examination of the July 18 tragedy, which claimed dozens of lives and left survivors, families and the wider nation demanding answers.

Commissioners have already conducted a preliminary survey of the accident site, established a Secretariat and secured the Arthur Chung Conference Centre as the venue for public hearings.

They are now gathering critical evidence from agencies with information relevant to the vessel and the voyage, including the Maritime Administration (MARAD), the Transport and Harbours Department, the Guyana Coast Guard and Air Guard.

That evidence includes information relating to the *Barima's* seaworthiness, the



conditions under which it sailed and the operation of the vessel during the voyage. Preliminary analysis of documents received so far is already under way.

The Commission is

also identifying potential witnesses and preparing a schedule for interviews, while finalising rules that will govern the inquiry. Those rules are intended to ensure the process is open, transparent,

orderly and fair.

A dedicated website is also being developed to provide the public with a single authoritative source of information on the Commission's work.

But the inquiry is not limited to determining how the vessel capsized. Its mandate requires the Commissioners to establish, as far as the evidence allows, the full sequence of events; determine the immediate, contributing and systemic causes of the disaster; identify failures or shortcomings; assess compliance with maritime laws and safety requirements; and examine the response to the casualty.

The Commission

is also expected to recommend reforms and identify where accountability may be warranted.

As the investigation progresses, the Commission is calling on survivors, families, government and non-governmental organisations, private entities and members of the public with relevant information to come forward.

The Commission said it is working assiduously to begin public hearings later this month, while ensuring that the necessary technical, documentary and witness evidence is properly assembled beforehand.

MV BARIMA SURVIVORS, FAMILIES RECEIVE ONGOING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Government continues to engage with survivors and families who lost loved ones

The Ministry of Health has intensified mental health support for families and individuals affected by

the MV Barima tragedy, deploying psychologists and psychiatrists to Region One to provide specialised grief

counselling and follow-up care.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, said the ministry partnered with the Ministries of Human Services and Education to respond to the psychological needs of those affected.

“After the tragedy, we were able to send our psychologists and psychiatrists to Region One so that they can meet with family members and be able to do counselling on site,” Minister Anthony told

the Department of Public Information.

He said more than 20 health personnel, most of them specialists, were deployed to affected communities. Teams also conducted home visits, assessed individuals and developed care plans, with follow-up visits provided where necessary.

The response was strengthened through specialised training delivered by experts from the Pan American Health Organization, who spent two weeks

in Region One working with healthcare workers and community leaders on grief management and support.

The ministry has also expanded access through telepsychology and telepsychiatry, allowing affected persons to receive specialist services remotely and facilitating referrals to Georgetown Hospital when more intensive care is required.

Anthony said educational materials and pamphlets were also distributed throughout

affected communities, encouraging people experiencing symptoms to seek assistance at their nearest health centre.

“We have been able to send persons to the homes of those persons who would have lost loved ones, and we work directly with them at home,” he said.

The coordinated response is aimed at ensuring that the psychological impact of the tragedy is addressed beyond the immediate aftermath, with continued specialist care available to affected families and communities.

NEW US-GUYANA MIGRATION DEAL COMES WITH STRICT LIMITS AND SAFEGUARDS

Guyana has secured firm conditions, full national discretion and extensive safeguards under a new migration cooperation framework with the United States (US) that will allow for the limited relocation of vetted, skilled and non-criminal individuals to Guyana.

Under the arrangement, Guyana retains the authority to review and reject any individual proposed for relocation, while the US will cover the full cost of the relocation process.

The Government has made clear that only individuals who voluntarily choose Guyana will be accepted.

The programme will be implemented operationally by



Guyana and United States finalise Migration Cooperation Framework

the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which will cover the costs of receiving, housing and supporting relocated individuals and provide assistance aimed at their integration while they remain in Guyana.

Importantly, the arrangement does not transfer Guyana's sovereign responsibilities to the IOM. Decisions concerning admission, legal stay, protection and removal remain with the relevant Guyanese

authorities.

The framework also establishes protections for individuals who may have legitimate claims for international protection. Those cases can be referred to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with IOM support and coordination with Guyanese authorities.

Individuals will also have access to legal representatives and family members through regular and sufficiently private communication.

The arrangement is temporary and does not amount to permanent

resettlement. Those relocated will await determination of their immigration status in Guyana and, depending on the outcome, will either return to their country of origin or relocate elsewhere of their choosing.

For Guyana, the agreement represents a carefully defined form of cooperation rather than an open-ended migration commitment.

The Government has framed the framework within its broader commitment to human rights, international cooperation and a strengthening bilateral

relationship with the US.

That partnership has expanded significantly across energy, trade, investment, security and diplomacy under President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

The migration framework adds another dimension to that relationship while placing clear boundaries around Guyana's participation.

Guyana is willing to cooperate, but on defined terms, with national authorities retaining the final say and human rights protections built into the process.

GUYANESE COMPANY BREAKS INTO IDB LAB FINANCING



Pas Cargo becomes first Guyanese company to secure IDB Lab Loan

A new financing door has opened for Guyanese businesses, with Pas Cargo Guyana Inc. becoming the first local private sector company to secure a loan from IDB Lab, the innovation and venture arm of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The milestone signals growing access to international development financing for locally owned enterprises as Guyana works to expand private investment and strengthen the non-oil economy.

The loan agreement was signed at the Ministry of Finance in the presence of Senior Finance Minister, Dr Ashni Singh, who said the breakthrough should encourage more Guyanese companies to pursue financing opportunities through

IDB Lab and other private-sector arms of international financial institutions. Pas Cargo, particularly after 14



Pas Cargo becomes first Guyanese company to secure IDB Lab Loan

established in years of operation. He said the company benefited from guidance from the IDB Lab team throughout the application process, helping it navigate the requirements and ultimately secure the

loan. The agreement followed discussions between IDB representatives and the Ministry of Finance on expanding the IDB Group's private-sector footprint in Guyana and increasing financial support for locally driven projects.

IDB Lab General Manager, Graham Macmillan, on his first official visit to Guyana, welcomed Pas Cargo's achievement and expressed hope that it would be the first of many Guyanese companies to access similar financing.

The development comes as Government continues to promote private-sector expansion across construction, agriculture, tourism, mining, manufacturing and logistics, seeking to broaden economic growth beyond the oil sector.

IDB Lab focuses on entrepreneurship, technology and innovation, providing flexible financing, knowledge and international connections to businesses and innovation ecosystems across Latin America and the Caribbean.

For Guyanese entrepreneurs, the Pas Cargo deal establishes a local precedent: international development financing is no longer just an opportunity discussed, it is a channel a Guyanese company has now successfully accessed.

GUYANA POSTS 19.3% GROWTH AS DEBT PRESSURE AND UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINE

Guyana's economic boom is being matched by a falling debt burden, declining unemployment and accelerating growth across both oil and non-oil sectors, according to the latest *Caribbean Economics Quarterly* from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Despite increased borrowing to finance major infrastructure and development projects, the share of government revenue going towards debt payments has fallen from about seven cents of every dollar collected before oil production to roughly five cents today.

The IDB describes Guyana as a **"low-debt case"** and an outlier among countries assessed, citing strong resource revenues. The Bahamas, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, by comparison, entered 2025 with significantly higher debt burdens than in 2019.

The labour market has also recorded a sharp turnaround. Unemployment fell from 14.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2021 to 6.8 per cent in the same



Demand for jobs, housing and services have significantly risen

period of 2024, cutting the rate by more than half in three years.

At the same time, Guyana's population has risen from approximately 700,000 a decade ago to about 900,000, adding to demand for jobs, housing and public services.

The economy expanded by 19.3 per cent in 2025, following an extraordinary 43.8 per cent growth in 2024. Importantly, non-oil growth accelerated to 15



Demand for jobs, housing and services have significantly risen

per cent last year from 13 per cent in 2024, indicating that economic activity beyond petroleum is gaining momentum.

The International Monetary Fund projects continued rapid expansion, forecasting growth of 16.2 per cent in 2026, 19.7 per cent in 2027 and 22.1 per cent in 2028, before growth moderates as oil production stabilises.

The figures point to an economy expanding at historic speed while simultaneously reducing debt pressure and creating more employment opportunities.

GUYANA ADDS NEARLY 400,000 TONNES TO FOOD OUTPUT



Lettuce grown hydroponically inside the greenhouse at VC Farms, Friendship, East Bank Demerara.

Guyana has added nearly 400,000 tonnes to its agricultural output in five years, strengthening domestic food security while positioning the country to supply more of the Caribbean's growing demand for food.

Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, said production across 15 CARICOM priority commodities increased from 1.41 million tonnes in 2020 to 1.81 million tonnes in 2025, an increase of 394,698 tonnes, or 27.9 per cent.

The surge puts Guyana on a strong trajectory to support CARICOM's target of reducing the region's food import bill by 25 per cent by 2030. Minister Mustapha said

Guyana recorded a 77 per cent success rate when progress towards the regional target was assessed in 2025.

The growth reflects increased investment and expansion across both traditional and emerging areas of agriculture.

Corn and coconut production have recorded significant gains, while soybean cultivation is being expanded to support the animal-feed industry and reduce dependence on imported inputs. Livestock production has also grown by 12.5 per cent since 2020, with poultry up 11.5 per cent, beef 11.7 per cent, pork six per cent and eggs 12.4 per cent.

Guyana is now pushing into additional areas with export potential. Approximately 300 acres of onions are expected to be cultivated in Region Nine during the current crop, part of efforts to meet domestic demand while building production capacity for regional markets.

The expansion is also feeding a growing agro-processing sector. Mustapha said Guyanese agro-processed products are already being sold in several Caribbean countries, while other CARICOM states are increasingly seeking Guyana's agricultural expertise.

"Many countries

in the Caribbean, CARICOM, now are requiring our strategy, our help, our expertise," he said.

The developments come as Caribbean countries continue to face production disruptions from hurricanes and other natural disasters, reinforcing the need for stronger regional food production.

For Guyana, the numbers point to a broader shift, of more food produced at home, greater capacity to reduce imports and a growing opportunity to become a reliable supplier to Caribbean markets.



Lettuce grown hydroponically inside the greenhouse at VC Farms, Friendship, East Bank Demerara.

GUYANA TO TRAIN CARIBBEAN'S NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS



Guyana breaks ground for fourth regional law school

Guyana is set to become home to the Caribbean's fourth regional law school, putting the country on a new footing as a destination for legal education, professional training and regional talent.

The establishment of the Council of Legal Education (CLE) law school at the University of Guyana's Turkeyen Campus is expected to bring students from across the Caribbean to Guyana while expanding access to professional legal training and strengthening the country's role in shaping the region's legal profession.

The eight-acre development is therefore more than another addition to Guyana's education infrastructure. It represents a strategic move to build the country's capacity as a regional provider of high-level professional education.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, said the project carries significance that extends well beyond the

country's borders.

"We are here to participate in a simple and symbolic ceremony, but a ceremony of great historical and futuristic significance," Minister

The timing is significant as demand for professional legal education continues to grow across the Caribbean, driven in part by an expanding number of universities offering undergraduate



Guyana breaks ground for fourth regional law school

Nandlall said during the turning of the sod.

Guyana's successful bid was formally endorsed by the CLE in September 2025 through the Bahamas Resolution, paving the way for the establishment of the fourth regional law school.

Minister Nandlall stressed that although the institution will be physically located in Guyana, its mandate will be regional.

"We were very careful in our negotiations not to ever create the

impression that this is going to be an insular institution. It's not a Guyanese institution. While it will be located in Guyana, it is a regional institution to serve the people of the region," he said.

The development could also establish Guyana as a base for advanced legal training. Plans include collaboration with the Caribbean Court of Justice to establish the CCJ Academy of Law at the Turkeyen site, expanding opportunities for continuing professional education.

For Guyanese students, the project addresses another critical gap by creating greater access to professional legal training closer to home. University of Guyana graduates have historically faced challenges securing places at regional professional law schools, with some experiencing lengthy delays before advancing their legal careers.

Minister Nandlall said the demand for legal education has grown dramatically over the past five decades, while technology and changing learning environments have reshaped the profession.

The project itself has taken decades to materialise, with the establishment of a fourth CLE school first formally advanced at a CLE meeting in 1996.

Now, that long-standing ambition is moving toward reality.

For Guyana, the impact could extend beyond the students who pass through its doors. The country stands to gain a larger regional presence in legal education, attract Caribbean students and professionals, and build an ecosystem around legal training and professional development.

GOAL PROGRAMME BRINGS EDUCATION AND SPORT TOGETHER



Sports gets a human capital boost as GOAL Scholarships launch

Guyana is investing in the people behind the medals, with a new scholarship programme designed to build the coaches, administrators, specialists and professionals needed to take the country's sporting sector beyond competition.

The GOAL Sports Scholarship Programme is opening specialised academic pathways for athletes and sports professionals, signalling a broader push to ensure Guyana's growing investment in sport is matched by investment in the people who manage, develop and sustain it.

Launched at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, the programme is a collaboration among the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) and the National Sports Commission.

Culture, Youth and Sport Minister, Charles Ramson Jr, said the initiative represents a deliberate shift towards the "holistic development" of sport.

The focus, he said, is not only on athletes or sporting facilities, but on building the network of supporting professions that a modern sports sector requires.

Guyana's sporting ambitions therefore extend beyond producing competitors. The programme is targeting sports administrators, coaches, physical education teachers, fitness trainers, facility managers and event promoters, alongside

those seeking careers in sports management, marketing, nutrition, journalism and psychology.

The academic options range from specialised certificates

Rehabilitation and Sports Journalism.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, said the programme also



Sports gets a human capital boost as GOAL Scholarships launch

to master's-level programmes.

Certificates are available in Sports Facilities Management, Nutrition and Dietetics, Adapted Physical Education, Bodybuilding Instruction and Sports Agent studies.

At the master's level, participants can pursue Sports Marketing and Management, Athletics Coaching, Coaching and Sports Psychology, Physical and Sports



Sports gets a human capital boost as GOAL Scholarships launch

for athletes to access the financing through the recently launched Development Bank.

Minister within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Steven Jacobs, said the scholarship programme complements the Government's investment in sporting infrastructure by developing the human resources required to support it.

"Sport and education must complement each other," Minister Jacobs said.

The initiative has already drawn support from within the sporting community.

National swimmer Aleka Persaud said she was particularly interested in sports psychology, while football coach Jamaal Shabazz described the programme as a "game changer", arguing that its impact could extend across the wider sporting community.

Footballer, Jeremy Garrett also welcomed the opportunity for athletes and sports enthusiasts to gain specialised qualifications.

For Guyana, the significance of the programme goes beyond scholarships. It is about creating a deeper pool of expertise around sport so that athletes have stronger support, facilities are better managed, organisations are better equipped and sporting careers can continue long after competition ends.

Interested persons have until September 18 to apply.

POWER DEMAND HITS 257MW AS GPL RACES TO REINFORCE GRID

Guyana’s electricity demand has surged sharply over the past year, placing mounting pressure on the national distribution network and contributing to recent outages, the Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) said.

GPL’s Executive Management Committee Team Leader, Kesh Nandlall said peak demand has climbed from 221 megawatts last year to approximately 257 megawatts, with the heaviest load typically recorded between 7pm and 9pm.

During those hours, households returning home simultaneously power air-conditioning units, fans, lights and other appliances, placing additional stress on feeders and transformers and triggering voltage fluctuations and outages in some areas.

The pressure is being compounded by rapid growth in electricity consumption. GPL’s customer base has increased from



GPL faces new pressure as electricity demand outpaces grid capacity

approximately 201,000 in 2020 to 250,000, while existing customers are also using more electricity.

Nandlall said GPL has nevertheless expanded generation capacity by approximately 230MW since 2020, with 265.6MW currently available and another 5MW expected shortly.

Recent major outages were linked to

faults at the Kingston Substation, including a main transformer fault that contributed to Saturday night’s disruption. Monday morning’s disturbance remains under investigation.

Officials acknowledged that rising demand has also narrowed the system’s spinning reserve, leaving less backup capacity when a generating unit trips.

GPL is responding with an approximately US\$800 million investment programme, including new substations, transmission upgrades and about 350 kilometres of additional distribution network.

The company is also urging customers adding major loads, particularly additional air-conditioning units, to notify GPL so infrastructure can be upgraded to accommodate the increased demand.

PRESIDENT ALI PUTS REGION 10 DEVELOPMENT ABOVE POLITICS

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has made it clear that Region 10’s development will not be dictated by politics, as he announced further road and water works for Coomacka Mines, while outlining plans to expand housing, production and economic opportunities across the region.

During his outreach to residents, President Ali committed to another two kilometres of road being completed in Coomacka Mines before the end of the year, extending ongoing works towards Old England.

He also delivered a firm commitment on one of the community’s longstanding concerns: water.

Following successful drilling at Old England, the President said he has directed the Guyana Water Incorporated to develop the well and extend the water supply to Coomacka Mines, despite the additional cost involved in constructing a p p r o x i m a t e l y 1.5 kilometres of transmission infrastructure.

“It is non-negotiable,” President Ali said, making it clear that access to reliable water remains a priority.

But the President’s message extended beyond individual projects. He explicitly rejected the idea that Region 10’s development programme would be withheld because of the region’s political outcome at the 2025 elections.

The government, he said, remains committed to its manifesto promises and to advancing development across Linden and the wider region.

That commitment includes housing, with Ali saying the government intends to meet the housing needs of every applicant in Region 10. Innovative approaches to lower

construction costs and improve residents’ access to financing are also being pursued.

The economic agenda is equally ambitious. Through the Guyana Development Bank, government plans to support productive activity in agriculture, transportation, tourism and other sectors, with the aim of positioning Linden and Region 10 as a major production hub.

Poultry and swine production, cold-storage facilities and other productive investments are among the areas being targeted.

For residents, the value of the outreach



Cabinet outreach puts Region 10 residents at centre of development planning

was also in being heard directly.

Wunita Garey of Three Friend Mine welcomed the opportunity to raise community concerns with the President, highlighting road improvements and school transportation while stressing the continued need for reliable transport for families.

Other residents, including Chapunna and Grace Rogers, also welcomed the engagement and opportunity to hear directly from the President.

The message from President Ali was ultimately direct, Region 10’s development agenda is about delivering what communities need, and that commitment, he said, does not depend on politics.

Guyana’s landmark Gas-to-Energy Project has entered a critical phase, with the first turbine at Wales expected to undergo initial firing and testing in December, bringing the country closer to a major expansion of its electricity supply.

During a recent inspection, Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips and Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation Deodat Indar reviewed

FIRST GAS-TO-ENERGY TURBINE SET FOR DECEMBER TESTING, 57MW BOOST NEARS

progress across the massive development, including the installation of gas turbines, storage tanks, pipelines, foundations and the substation that will connect the facility to the national grid.

Officials reported significant progress since June, with several major components already installed and

infrastructure works advancing across the site. Once operational, the first turbine will deliver approximately 57 megawatts of additional power, with the remaining units scheduled to come online in phases as the project advances toward its 300-megawatt target.

Minister Indar said the additional capacity

is urgently needed as electricity consumption continues to rise due to rapid economic growth, expanding industries and increased residential demand.

Supported by approximately 1,300 workers and 425 kilometres of new transmission lines, the project is expected to strengthen energy



Gas-to-Energy Project advances rapidly as Guyana prepares for major power expansion

reliability, support future power needs for years to development and help come.

meet Guyana’s growing

The long-awaited transformation of the Soesdyke Junction is moving into high gear, with preparatory works advancing rapidly to pave the way for construction of a new roundabout scheduled to begin this week.

A designated relocation area is currently being sand-filled, rolled and compacted to accommodate vendors,

SOESDYKE JUNCTION UPGRADE ENTERS NEW PHASE WITH ROUNDABOUT WORKS IMMINENT

taxi operators and other stakeholders who will be moved from the existing car park. The relocation is a critical step in clearing the project corridor and allowing full-scale construction activities to commence.

According to the Ministry of Public Works, work on the new tarmac

area is progressing swiftly, with compaction of the white sand base nearing completion.

The roundabout forms part of a broader programme of road upgrades linking the Linden - Soesdyke Highway project and the Good Success-to-Timehri corridor.

Once completed, the infrastructure improvements are expected to ease congestion, improve traffic flow and strengthen connectivity along one of Guyana’s busiest transportation hubs.



New Soesdyke Roundabout moves closer as preparatory works advance

NEW FOUNDATION PROGRAMME SET TO SPEED UP HOMEOWNERSHIP

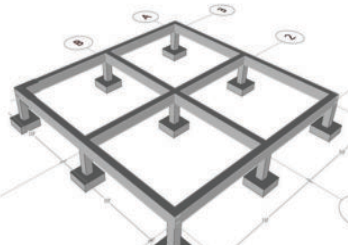
The Government is piloting a new foundation programme in Leonora and Meten-Meer-Zorg aimed at removing a major barrier to homeownership and accelerating delivery under its 40,000-house housing programme.

Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, said the initiative will help beneficiaries meet the upfront cost of preparing foundations, allowing prefabricated and modular homes to be installed more quickly on completed structures.

Under the pilot, the Ministry is working with suppliers and contractors to construct concrete foundations for beneficiaries.

Foundation Type #1

400 Sq.ft



The programme is designed to assist allottees in constructing their homes by offering standardised foundation options

Once completed, prefab homes can be transported to the site and installed directly on the prepared structures.

Minister Croal described the approach as a “hybrid process”, allowing beneficiaries to combine government assistance with private financing and other housing programmes to secure their homes.

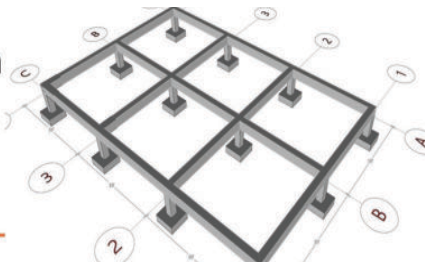
The pilot has already

generated positive feedback, with the project team engaging suppliers to secure the materials and services needed for foundation construction.

The initiative is part of a wider push to dramatically increase the pace of housing delivery. Government is engaging major contractors to construct low- and middle-income homes,

Foundation Type #2

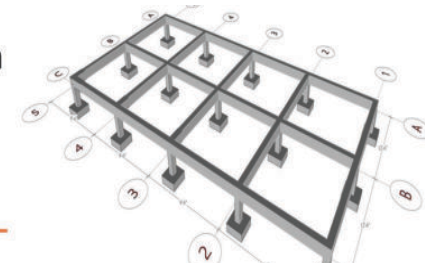
600 Sq.ft



The programme is designed to assist allottees in constructing their homes by offering standardised foundation options

Foundation Type #3

950 Sq.ft



The programme is designed to assist allottees in constructing their homes by offering standardised foundation options

young professional units, townhouses and social housing.

Minister Croal said prefabricated and modular construction

will be critical to delivering the scale required, as homes can be produced and installed faster than through conventional construction.

He said the groundwork now underway is expected to become visible in housing developments by year-end, with construction accelerating over the next four years.

The Ministry is also pursuing improved mortgage financing, housing subsidies and a planned digital portal connecting screened beneficiaries with approved contractors and financial institutions.

Together, the measures are designed to move beneficiaries from waiting for a home to having a clearer, faster route to owning one.

8,500 MORE GUYANESE MOVE CLOSER TO LAND OWNERSHIP



Over 8,500 titles processed as government accelerates land ownership drive

More than 8,500 land titles have already been processed in the first year of Government’s current term, bringing thousands of Guyanese closer to something many families have waited years, and in some cases decades, to secure: legal ownership of the land they call home.

Minister of Housing, Collin Croal, said the figure is expected to surpass 10,000 in the near term, as Government intensifies its land regularisation programme across more than 21 communities.

The programme is tackling a longstanding problem, residents occupying land for

years without formal documentation to prove ownership.

For these families, a title means more than paperwork. It provides security, the ability to legally transfer property to children and greater certainty over the future

working through the surveying, planning and legal processes required to regularise communities and establish formal ownership, including addressing occupations on reserves and other unregulated lands.



Over 8,500 titles processed as government accelerates land ownership drive



Over 8,500 titles processed as government accelerates land ownership drive

of their homes. Government

Croal said the effort is being pursued alongside

the wider housing programme, allowing Government to address existing land ownership backlogs while opening new areas for housing development.

With more than 21 areas targeted, the programme is also aimed at reducing squatting and bringing communities into the formal system of

land ownership.

The Government has committed to maintaining the momentum over the next five years.

For thousands of families, that means the prospect of moving from occupying land to owning it, and being able to pass that ownership on to the next generation.

NEW HOUSING MODEL PUTS FOOD SECURITY AT FAMILIES’ DOORSTEPS



The Yarrowkabra Hyde Park Project

The government is expanding the role of public housing beyond homeownership, introducing a new model that will allow families at the Yarrowkabra Hyde Park Housing Development to grow their own food and

generate income from their backyards.

More than 50 beneficiaries have already been allocated under an initiative that will see shade houses attached to newly constructed homes, creating opportunities

for residents to cultivate vegetables for both household consumption and commercial sale.

The announcement was made by Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Vanessa Benn, during an outreach at the Kuru Kuru Training College.

The initiative forms part of a broader effort to integrate food security and economic opportunity into housing developments, ensuring that families benefit not only from owning a home but also from having a sustainable source of

food and income.

“This project is going to enable each of those beneficiaries to have a shade house attached to their home,” Minister Benn explained.

The programme is

expected to particularly benefit single mothers by helping them reduce household food expenses while creating an avenue to earn additional income. Revenue from the sale of produce can assist families in meeting mortgage payments,



The Yarrowkabra Hyde Park Project

covering school-related expenses and improving overall financial stability.

More than 75 homes have already been completed at the development, while discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to provide technical support and strengthen implementation.

Beneficiaries will also undergo specialised training to ensure they can effectively manage the shade houses and maximise production, creating a model where housing developments contribute directly to family nutrition, self-sufficiency and long-term economic resilience.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES MOVE FROM THE MARGINS TO THE CENTRE OF GUYANA'S DEVELOPMENT



Heritage, progress and a place in Guyana's future

The beating drums, vibrant dances, traditional dress and ancestral knowledge that opened Amerindian Heritage Month 2026 at the Sophia Exhibition Complex were more than a celebration of the past. They were a reminder of the growing place of Guyana's First Peoples in the country's future.

Under the theme *"Observing Our Cultural Heritage During Our Diamond Jubilee: Honouring Our Traditions, Culture and Contributions"*,

the month-long observance is celebrating Indigenous identity while highlighting the expanding opportunities and investments reaching communities across the hinterland.

Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Sarah Brown-Shadeek, said heritage must be understood as a source of identity and pride, calling on Guyanese to do more than celebrate Indigenous culture for one month.

"Cultural heritage is our identity, and we must have pride in it," she emphasised, urging greater investment in preserving Indigenous traditions, ancestral knowledge and ways of life.

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali used the opening ceremony to place that cultural identity alongside a broader message of development, arguing that Indigenous communities must not simply observe Guyana's economic growth but

participate in and benefit from it.

"In our One Guyana, the Amerindian



Heritage, progress and a place in Guyana's future

community occupies a special place as our first people," the President said.

He pointed to more than \$41.7 billion invested in villages and communities, including \$21.7 billion through the Amerindian Development Fund and \$14.2 billion through the Low Carbon Development Fund.

The investments have extended across the areas most directly

affected daily life.

More than \$1 billion has been invested in agriculture, with approximately 300 roads and continued maintenance of road corridors.

The reach of modern services is also growing. Hinterland generating capacity has increased from 1.62 megawatts to almost 17.5 megawatts, while high-speed connectivity has reached 253 villages.

In education, more than \$1 billion in scholarships has supported Indigenous students, while schools and access to primary and secondary education have expanded.

Healthcare access has similarly widened, with the President reporting that more than 30,000 Indigenous people gained direct access to healthcare through Cortex within five months of its implementation.

Digital inclusion is another emerging pathway to opportunity. Government ICT investments have reached approximately 140,000 people, with more than 2,850 residents certified in

basic digital literacy, 75 per cent of whom were women.

For President Ali, these figures represent more than spending. They represent an effort to ensure Indigenous Guyanese have the tools to build businesses, pursue careers, access services and shape their own communities.

"The investments we are making... is what it means to translate economic growth into development and to ensure that the indigenous peoples of Guyana are not spectators in our country's transformation but participants and beneficiaries of it," he said.

As September unfolds, Heritage Month is also underscoring a broader priority that preserving Indigenous culture while ensuring Indigenous communities share fully in Guyana's development and prosperity.

WORK SET TO BEGIN ON \$500M HOSTEL

For thousands of hinterland residents who must travel to Georgetown for medical treatment and other essential services, finding a safe and comfortable place to stay will soon become easier.

Construction of a \$500 million state-of-the-art Amerindian Hostel is expected to begin shortly, delivering significantly improved temporary accommodation for Indigenous people travelling from

communities across Guyana.

Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Sarah Brown-Shadeek, announced the development during the opening of Amerindian Heritage Month 2026, saying the project fulfils a commitment made by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

The need is already clear. The existing Amerindian Hostel has provided critical support to hinterland residents accessing



Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Sarah Browne-Shadeek making the announcement

services in the capital, with approximately 1,835 people receiving

assistance up to August 2026.

That support has included accommodation and transportation through flights and other travel arrangements to help residents return to their communities.

The new facility will provide better conditions, greater comfort and improved support for people who often travel long distances from remote communities, particularly those seeking specialised healthcare unavailable in their home regions.

The investment forms part of a broader effort to close the access gap between hinterland and coastal communities, ensuring that distance from Georgetown does not become a barrier to healthcare, education and other essential services.

For Indigenous families, the new hostel represents more than accommodation, it is a practical investment in access, dignity and inclusion.



Lokono at risk of disappearing, says Amerindian Affairs Minister

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO SAVE LOKONO LANGUAGE FROM EXTINCTION

The government is moving to introduce the Indigenous language Lokono into Guyana's primary school curriculum as part of a wider effort to prevent one of the country's oldest languages from disappearing.

Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Sarah Browne-Shadeek, revealed that her ministry is collaborating

with the Ministry of Education on the initiative, warning that Lokono faces the greatest risk of extinction among Guyana's Indigenous languages.

Speaking on the *Starting Point* podcast, the minister described the issue as both a national and personal concern, noting that despite growing up in one of Guyana's largest

Amerindian villages, she never learned to speak the language.

"It's sad to see, not by choice, but because the people around me didn't speak it," she said, warning that without deliberate intervention, **"that little that's left will die with me."**

Lokono-speaking communities are concentrated in coastal

Indigenous villages such as Moraikobai, Orealla, Santa Mission and Santa Aratak, as well as parts of Region One. According to the minister, greater exposure to outside influences, social media and integration with mainstream society has accelerated language loss across generations.

The planned curriculum initiative seeks to shift language

preservation from informal family settings into classrooms, ensuring children are exposed to the language consistently and systematically.

Minister Browne-Shadeek said the proposal remains in its early stages but represents a critical first step in safeguarding Indigenous heritage.

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THE HEARTBEAT OF INDIGENOUS GUYANA COMES ALIVE IN SOPHIA

The vibrant colours of handcrafted art, the aroma of traditional Indigenous cuisine and the stories woven through generations of cultural heritage transformed the Amerindian Heritage Month Exhibition at Sophia into a living celebration of Guyana’s First Peoples. Held as part of the national observance of Amerindian Heritage Month, the exhibition attracted visitors from across the country, providing a unique opportunity to experience Indigenous culture firsthand while supporting the artisans, entrepreneurs and producers who continue to preserve and promote centuries-old traditions.

From intricate tibusiri crafts and traditional fish traps to Indigenous delicacies and locally made products, the exhibition showcased the creativity, resilience and innovation that define Indigenous communities throughout Guyana.

For exhibitor Danesh Camacho of Hummingbird Products, the event served as an important link between hinterland communities and the wider population. “When September comes around, a lot of the Georgetown population would have an opportunity to partake in Indigenous cuisines, buy the crafts and partake in Indigenous culture that they wouldn’t normally get access to,” he explained.

Beyond celebrating culture, Camacho noted that the exhibition played a critical role in creating economic opportunities by expanding markets for Indigenous businesses and fostering new partnerships.

For veteran craftswoman Morna Ferreira, the exhibition represented far more than a place to sell products. For nearly two decades, she has showcased handcrafted tibusiri items, including jewellery boxes, placemats and fruit bowls, turning traditional skills into a source of livelihood.

As a single mother of five, Ferreira said the income earned from her craft enables her to raise her children and provide for their needs. Her story reflected the broader impact of Indigenous entrepreneurship and the enduring value of preserving traditional knowledge.

Other exhibitors, including artisan Don Calbert, proudly displayed handmade headdresses, jewellery, baskets and traditional tools, sharing pieces of their heritage with visitors while helping to keep cultural practices alive.

Their participation highlighted the exhibition’s broader purpose, not only preserving Indigenous traditions but ensuring they remain visible, relevant and economically sustainable for future generations.

More than a cultural showcase, the Amerindian Heritage Month Exhibition stood as a celebration of identity, resilience and opportunity. It served as a reminder that Indigenous culture is not simply a part of Guyana’s history, it remains a vibrant and essential part of the nation’s present and future.



INDIGENOUS ARTISTS CARRYING CULTURE FORWARD

Guyana’s Indigenous artists are using more than paint, fabric and design to tell their stories; they are helping preserve a culture facing the slow erosion of traditions and language. That message came into sharp focus at the annual Amerindian Art Exhibition and Fashion Show at Castellani House, where Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Sarah Browne-Shadeek urged greater support for Indigenous creatives as Guyana observes Amerindian Heritage Month.

“Art and culture define who we are as Indigenous people,” Minister Browne-Shadeek said, stressing the need to create platforms where artists can express themselves, gain recognition and inspire a new generation. But for artists like Makushi creative Demion Mack, the issue goes far beyond recognition. Mack warned that Indigenous traditions are disappearing, particularly among younger generations. “If you go to my village, you won’t find a little child speaking Makushi anymore,” he said, pointing to the growing dominance of English in many communities.

Through fabric paintings and traditional-inspired designs, Mack is seeking to make Indigenous culture visible, and wearable, while encouraging Guyanese to embrace art rooted in the country’s Indigenous identity. The exhibition brought together artists including Ronald Taylor, Dillion Craig, Mack and Courtney Douglas, whose work reflects Indigenous stories, identity and creativity.

Visitor Destiny Hinds described the exhibition as a powerful connection to Guyana’s beginnings, arguing that Indigenous heritage must remain part of the country’s broader cultural identity. This year’s exhibition also honoured the late Anna Isles, whose decades of work supporting Indigenous artists and communities helped build opportunities for creatives through the Amerindian Heritage Month Art Exhibition and the George Simon Project.

Her legacy, organisers stressed, is a reminder that preserving culture requires both the artists who create and the people who choose to value their work.





**Robert Bazil for City Councillor | Ward 24
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Dear Ontario Resident,

For too long the families of Scarborough-Guildwood have watched our vibrant community take a backseat at City Hall. From neglected infrastructure to a lack of meaningful programming for our youth, the signs of decline are hard to ignore. We have been served by the same status quo for a decade — but **a wind of change is coming to Scarborough-Guildwood.**

My name is **Robert Bazil**, and I am running to be the new City Councillor.

When I emigrated to Canada in 2008, I chose Scarborough as the place to build a life and raise my four children. As an award-winning international journalist, corporate communications specialist, and a Licensed Paralegal, my entire career has been built on a single foundation: **advocating for people and demanding accountability.**

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- **Accessible Leadership:** Bringing an open-door, transparent approach to municipal governance — ensuring your tax dollars are treated with respect and yield tangible local results.

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Thank you for your trust, your support, and your commitment to Ward 24.
With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bazil', written in a cursive, stylized script.

Robert Bazil
Candidate for City Councillor, Ward 24 (Scarborough-Guildwood)

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PRESS RELEASE

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This morning, the initiative continued to bring smiles to families, as 24 families from across Guyana each received 100 baby chicks and four bags of feed.

To date, approximately 300 families have benefited from this initiative, receiving valuable support to help create opportunities for income generation and greater self-reliance.

For some families who benefited in previous years, the initiative provided a foundation to continue growing their poultry operations. Others have gone on to pursue different entrepreneurial ventures, including opening shops and establishing other small businesses.

The continued efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Charran demonstrate the meaningful impact that private-sector support and community investment can have in helping families build sustainable livelihoods.



Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Charran with a recipient family at the distribution event.



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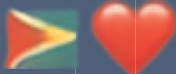


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REGION SIX RESIDENTS NO LONGER NEED TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR SPECIALISED CARE



Number 75 Regional Hospital marks first year offering specialised healthcare

One year after opening its doors, the Number 75 Regional Hospital has emerged as a game-changing healthcare institution for Region Six, delivering specialised medical services that were once only accessible in New Amsterdam or Georgetown.

The state-of-the-art facility has fundamentally changed how residents access healthcare, reducing the

need for long-distance travel while bringing advanced diagnostic and specialist services closer to thousands of families.

Medical Superintendent and Urologist, Dr Devendra Radhay, said the hospital has rapidly expanded its service delivery since becoming operational, providing 24-hour Accident and Emergency care, laboratory and pharmacy services, CT scans, ultrasound and

X-ray examinations, alongside a growing list of specialised clinics.

Patients now have access to orthopaedics, general surgery, ear, nose and throat services, maxillofacial surgery, urology, internal medicine, nephrology and paediatric surgery—all within their region.

Among the hospital's most significant successes has been its

orthopaedic service, which has dramatically reduced the number of patients requiring transfers to larger facilities.

“People had the mentality that you have to be transferred to New Amsterdam or Georgetown,” Dr Radhay explained. **“As time goes by, people start to trust in the hospital and trust in**

the specialties.”

That confidence continues to grow. Patients are now travelling from New Amsterdam and even other regions to access services at the facility, a testament to the quality of care being delivered.

The hospital has already demonstrated its ability to respond to major emergencies, successfully managing a serious accident involving 18 students last year. It has also recorded notable achievements in neonatal care, including the successful treatment of a premature infant who spent nearly 90 days receiving specialised care before being discharged.

Beyond the hospital compound, healthcare services are increasingly reaching communities

through a network of health centres. Specialist outreach clinics in orthopaedics, urology, surgery, optometry, foot care and ultrasound services are bringing care directly to residents, particularly benefiting elderly persons and patients living with chronic illnesses.

The recent introduction of psychiatric services further expands the hospital's role in improving healthcare access across the region.

Commissioned on August 28, 2025, the Number 75 Regional Hospital stands as a powerful symbol of Guyana's healthcare transformation, bringing advanced, quality medical care closer to home and ensuring that more citizens can receive the treatment they need, where they need it most.



Number 75 Regional Hospital marks first year offering specialised healthcare

NEW HOSPITALS TO TAKE SPECIALIST CARE DEEPER INTO GUYANA



Construction ongoing on the new Lethem Regional Hospital

Guyanese outside Georgetown are set to gain greater access to specialist and advanced medical care as a network of new and upgraded hospitals takes shape across the country, bringing services that once required travel

to the capital closer to patients.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony, said several major facilities are under construction, with the investments expected to significantly expand the range and quality of healthcare

available in the regions.

The 120-bed West Demerara Hospital is expected to be completed by the end of next year and will feature four operating theatres, a modern Accident and Emergency Department and an imaging suite equipped for X-rays, CT scans and MRI services.

The facility will also house a cardiac catheterisation laboratory, allowing patients in Region Three to access procedures such as stent placement without travelling to Georgetown.

In Region Eight, a new 50-bed hospital is being constructed at Kato to complement the Mahdia Hospital, while Region One will receive a 50-bed facility at Moruca with operating theatres, imaging, emergency care and specialised services.

Region Nine is also set for a major upgrade, with a new approximately 100-bed hospital being developed in Lethem. Anthony said demand has grown to the point where patients from Brazil are already crossing into Guyana to access surgical services.

A new hospital at Bartica is expected to be completed in 2028. Meanwhile, district hospitals at Karasabai, Annai and Sand Creek have been upgraded, including the addition of operating theatres to accommodate visiting surgical teams.

Kamarang is also moving towards a new hospital, with land allocated by the community and the facility now in the design phase.

“These facilities will obviously improve the quality

of care that we are delivering to the people in the interior of Guyana,” Minister Anthony said.

The hospital expansion is being reinforced by the construction of about 35 new health centres and health posts over the past three years, widening the healthcare network beyond the country's traditional urban centres.

Taken together, the investments signal a major shift towards bringing higher-level care closer to where people live, reducing the distance between patients and essential medical services.

Residents of Mahdia and surrounding communities in Region Eight are gaining access to a wider range of medical services without having to make the costly journey to Georgetown, as major upgrades continue at the Mahdia Hospital.

The hospital now has 14 doctors, including a surgeon and an anaesthesiologist, allowing surgical procedures to be performed locally.

Health Minister, Dr Frank Anthony, said the expansion is also giving patients access to services that were previously unavailable in Mahdia.

FROM SURGERY TO X-RAYS, MAHDIA HOSPITAL EXPANDS WHAT IT CAN DELIVER



More specialist care, less travel for Mahdia patients

A new digital X-ray machine means patients no longer have to travel to Georgetown for diagnostic imaging, while a new oxygen plant allows the hospital to produce its own medical oxygen on site rather than relying on supplies

transported from the capital.

The hospital has also added a modern ophthalmology department, a new dental unit, a rehabilitated rehabilitation department, a new malaria department,

operating theatre and laboratory.

Minister Anthony said additional wards are now being constructed as the Government continues to expand the hospital's capacity.

The Mahdia upgrades form part of a wider push to decentralise healthcare, with new hospitals being developed in Bartica, Lethem, Kato, Moruca and Kamarang, alongside upgrades to health facilities across the country.

For hinterland communities, the impact

is direct: more services are available closer to home, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances for essential care.

“We are very proud of the transformation

that is happening,” Minister Anthony said, **“but more importantly is that patients now can benefit from these services.”**



More specialist care, less travel for Mahdia patients

Guyana remains ‘prepared’ for Venezuela not to accept ICJ’s imminent ruling

PRESIDENT, Dr Irfaan Ali has said Venezuelan rhetoric over claims to Guyana’s Essequibo has “reduced substantially” since the arrest of President Nicolás Maduro, but stressed that Guyana is prepared for any kind of reaction once the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rules on the border controversy.

In a sit-down interview with Al Jazeera in Doha, President Ali said that since Maduro’s arrest and the rise of Delcy Rodríguez as Caracas’ key power broker under intense United States pressure, the tone coming from across the border has shifted.

“The rhetoric has reduced substantially,” President Ali said, noting that the long-running territorial claim is now squarely before the ICJ, which is expected to hand down a decision early in the new year on the validity of the 1899 arbitral award that fixed the boundary between the two states.

“We’re prepared for any reaction to the court’s ruling. We are very conscious of these words [and] also very conscious of Delcy’s position in relation to not accepting the ruling, notwithstanding the fact that Venezuela has participated fully in every aspect of



President Irfaan Ali

the case before the ICJ, but we are hopeful that in this new environment, in the effort to have this region stabilise [sic] and the U.S. playing an important part,” President Ali said.

Dr Ali pointed out that Venezuela has nonetheless participated “fully in every aspect of the case” before the court and expressed confidence that the judges will rule in Guyana’s favour on

the basis of “principle and fact.”

The president also underlined the importance of a stable western hemisphere and highlighted the role of the United States in coordinating regional security.

He rejected any suggestion that Washington’s renewed engagement with Caracas has sidelined Guyana, insisting that the U.S remains an “important ally” that has “consistently stood with us on this matter.”

Back in January, Maduro pleaded not guilty to charges of narco-terrorism after President Donald Trump’s stunning capture of him rattled world leaders and left officials in Caracas scrambling to respond.

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

At the centre of the controversy is Guyana’s request for the court to affirm the legal validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award, which established the international boundary between then British Guiana and Venezuela.

Guyana argued that the award

conclusively settled the border more than a century ago, while Venezuela maintains its claim of invalidity.

Importantly, the ICJ has already ruled that it has jurisdiction to hear and determine the matter on its merits. In a December 2020 judgment, the court rejected Venezuela’s challenge to its authority and ruled that it has the power to determine the validity of the 1899 award and the land boundary between the two neighbouring states.

Guyana’s Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Anil Nandall, SC, had said the country was “more confident than ever” that the world court will uphold the 1899 Arbitral Award and definitively affirm the country’s lawful boundary, following oral hearings of the case back in May.

The oral hearings, held between May 4 and May 11, saw Guyana and Venezuela present arguments in two rounds of pleadings before the ICJ — the United Nations’ highest judicial body.

The court will now deliberate before issuing its final judgment on the merits of the case, a ruling Nandall stressed will be legally binding on both countries.

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GUYANA MOVES EARLY TO PROTECT FOOD PRODUCTION FROM EL NIÑO



The El Niño Preparedness Forum hosted by the Ministry in collaboration with the Hydrometeorological Service

Guyana is moving to strengthen its agricultural defences against prolonged dry conditions, with the Government warning farmers to prepare for El Niño while stepping up measures to protect production and livelihoods through 2026 and into 2027.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, said the preparedness effort is about acting before conditions worsen, rather than allowing farmers to be caught off guard.

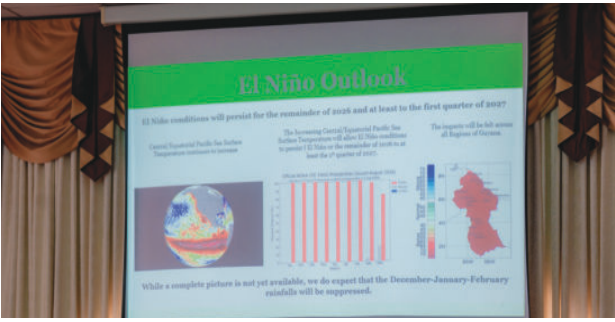
“We are here today not to create panic. We are here to prepare,” Minister Mustapha said during an El Niño Preparedness Forum

hosted by the Ministry in collaboration with the Hydrometeorological Service.

According to the Hydrometeorological Service, the conditions being experienced could persist through the remainder of 2026, with a strong possibility of continuing into the first quarter of 2027.

For agriculture, the priority will be ensuring that farmers have access to water when and where it is needed.

Minister Mustapha pointed to continued Government investment in drainage and irrigation infrastructure, canals, pumps, sluices and water-storage systems as key advantages in preparing for extended dry conditions.



The El Niño Preparedness Forum hosted by the Ministry in collaboration with the Hydrometeorological Service

“Our approach has to be straightforward... store water where we have it, manage it carefully, and make sure it reaches farmers when they need it,” he said.

The National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) is monitoring major conservancies and irrigation systems

while identifying areas most vulnerable to water shortages so interventions can be made before problems become severe.

The minister stressed that El Niño should not be allowed to undermine national food production.

Instead, preparedness will focus on keeping farmers producing while

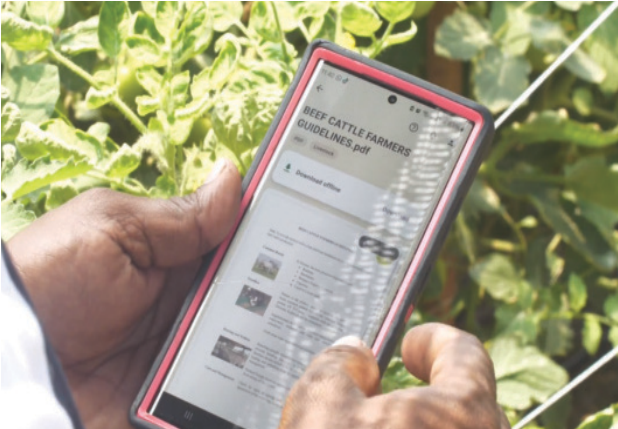
protecting food security and reducing the impact of adverse weather conditions.

The forum brought together farmers, technical agencies, private-sector representatives and development partners to assess potential risks and strengthen coordination.

Minister Mustapha also called for faster communication among farmers, Government agencies, regional administrations and technical officers, particularly where emerging water challenges require immediate attention.

The priority is to ensure farmers are prepared, water resources are managed efficiently and agricultural production continues without disruption.

4,000 FARMERS NOW CONNECTED TO AGRICULTURAL SERVICES THROUGH APP



Farmers are getting direct access to government services from anywhere in Guyana

Nearly 4,000 farmers across Guyana are now using the Farmers Connect application to access agricultural services, advice and market information, bringing government

support closer to producers even in some of the country’s most remote communities.

Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, said the platform has gained nationwide reach, with more than 2,000 non-farmers also using its services.

“You can be with your smartphone in Orealla, and you can send a message to the Ministry of Agriculture to get help in terms of

extension services, to get help in marketing, drainage and irrigation, look at problems with pests and diseases and other things like that,” Minister Mustapha said.

The platform connects farmers directly with agencies including the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) and the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), allowing concerns raised through the application

to be routed to the relevant personnel for action.

Farmers can also access market prices, weather updates, pest and disease alerts and crop-selection guidance based on soil conditions.

The application further links producers with buyers, agro-processors and exporters, helping farmers identify markets and improve connections across the agricultural value chain.

Another key feature is AI-assisted crop

diagnostics, which can help farmers identify plant diseases and receive recommendations on possible treatments.

Minister Mustapha said personnel from agencies under the Ministry are active on the platform and monitor issues submitted by users.

With farmers from all regions now using the application, Farmers Connect is becoming another channel through which agricultural expertise, information and government services can reach producers without requiring them to travel to access assistance.

SEAFIELD LANDS SET TO RETURN TO PRODUCTION AS GOVT RESOLVES FARMERS’ DISPUTE

Forty-nine farmers in Seafield, Region Five, are set to gain access to lands previously leased to them, clearing a major obstacle to agricultural production as the Government moves to put the disputed lands to productive use.

Agriculture Minister, Zulfikar Mustapha, announced the decision during a meeting with farmers and residents of Shieldstown and Seafield, where land access was identified as one of the key issues affecting agricultural activity in the area.

The move is expected to give farmers greater certainty to cultivate,

invest and expand production on lands that have been tied up in a longstanding dispute.

Minister Mustapha said the Government had reached an agreement aimed at accommodating both cattle farmers and those engaged in cash and multi-purpose crop production.

“There were two sides, the cattle farmers and the cash crop farmers and the multi-purpose crop. At that meeting, we decided that we will divide the land discussion. We will have both sides occupy the land,” he

said.

Under the arrangement, farmers involved in multi-purpose crop production will receive portions of the land, while cattle farmers will organise themselves into a group before individual leases are issued.

Minister Mustapha said the approach is intended to prevent further conflict and establish a more orderly system for agricultural land use, **“So that you will not have conflict when you have collective ownership. That was the resolution we**

came to.”

The land decision formed part of a wider discussion on measures needed to increase production in the surrounding communities. Farmers also raised concerns about drainage and irrigation, farm-to-market roads, MMA-ADA payments and market opportunities for shrimpers.

Minister Mustapha outlined steps to address those issues, reaffirming the Government’s commitment to removing practical barriers that can limit farmers’ ability to produce and reach



Long-standing Seafield land issue moves toward solution as farmers prepare to produce

markets.

For the 49 Seafield farmers, the immediate significance is access to land that can now move from uncertainty to cultivation.

The Government’s focus is increasingly

on ensuring that agricultural lands are not simply allocated, but actively used to produce food, generate income and expand opportunities for farming communities.

REGION ONE FARMERS GET MACHINERY, MARKETS AND SUPPORT TO SCALE PRODUCTION



New machinery, markets to drive Region One’s agricultural growth

Agriculture in commercial production, Region One is being positioned for a major shift from subsistence farming to larger-scale

processing and markets.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha said the strategy is aimed at giving farmers the tools and opportunities needed to increase production and build viable agricultural enterprises.

During a recent visit to the region, a pontoon and two excavators were commissioned and will remain there to clear canals and waterways, strengthening irrigation and drainage capacity.

The Government is also expanding agricultural extension services, with additional officers and specialised training planned to provide farmers with stronger support in crop production, livestock, marketing and other areas.

The push is already translating into increased production of crops including ginger, turmeric, black pepper and coffee. More than 18,000 coffee plants

and over \$50 million in planting materials and other inputs have been distributed to farmers.

A processing facility at Hosororo is supporting the ginger and turmeric industries, while the Guyana Marketing Corporation is being tasked with opening stronger market opportunities.

“You can’t produce without market, so that is why now we are looking and we are finding

market,” Minister Mustapha said.

Mechanisation is also expanding, with tractors delivered to satellite communities and plans for greater excavator coverage across the region.

The investments are intended to give Region One farmers the infrastructure, technical support and market access needed to turn agriculture into sustainable commercial businesses.

NEW DIGITAL PLATFORM PUTS SCHOOL PROBLEMS ON THE MINISTRY’S RADAR

School problems that once depended on phone calls, emails or other channels to reach the right authority can now be formally logged, tracked and escalated through a new digital reporting platform launched by the Ministry of Education.

Introduced under the leadership of Education Minister Sonia Parag, the platform will be

available to schools nationwide, giving headteachers, principals and teachers in charge a direct mechanism to report issues requiring intervention.

Chief Education Officer Saddam Hussain said the system is designed to give the ministry a clearer picture of problems affecting schools and enable faster responses.

“We cannot fix issues which we do not know about. We have to be told, and so we should be able to fix those issues once we are told,” Hussain said.

School officials will log in using their official school email, select their region and school, and submit details of the issue, including its urgency. Reports can

cover matters such as water and sanitation, with photographs allowed to provide evidence of the problem.

Once submitted, each report is automatically sent to the District Education Officer, Regional Education Officer, Executive Officer and the Ministry of Education.

Four officers have also been assigned to



Chief Education Officer Saddam Hussain

monitor reports and follow up with regions to determine whether issues have been addressed.

The platform is

expected to become mandatory, with a ministry circular to formalise its use across the education system.

REGION 10 STRENGTHENS FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WITH 41 NEW CHWS

Region 10 has added 41 newly trained Community Health Workers (CHWs), strengthening the frontline of Guyana’s public healthcare system and expanding access to essential services within communities.

Minister of Health Dr Frank Anthony, who attended the graduation ceremony, said the new CHWs will play a critical role as some of the first points of contact between residents and

the health system.

Their responsibilities will extend beyond basic care to include health promotion, disease prevention, maternal and child health, patient monitoring, encouraging healthier lifestyles and identifying residents who require further medical attention.

Minister Anthony urged the graduates to approach their duties with professionalism,



41 trained to take primary healthcare closer to Region 10 residents

empathy and a strong commitment to the communities they will serve.

He said the Government’s investment in healthcare is not limited to expanding and modernising facilities, but also includes building a skilled workforce capable of delivering quality care where people live.

The Minister encouraged the graduates to continue developing their knowledge and skills as healthcare needs and practices evolve.

The 41 graduates join the country’s growing health workforce at a time when the Government is placing greater emphasis on strengthening primary healthcare and ensuring citizens can access quality services closer to home.

Their deployment will add capacity at the community level, helping to strengthen early intervention, prevention and routine monitoring while connecting residents to higher levels of care when needed.

EDUCATION MONTH OPENS WITH PUSH FOR HEALTH, DISCIPLINE AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT



Students, teachers hit the streets to promote healthier, stronger schools

Hundreds of students, teachers and education stakeholders took education beyond the classroom and into the streets as the Ministry of Education launched its “Steps for Education” fitness walk to mark Education Month.

The activity

brought together participants from schools across Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six, along with Georgetown and Linden, in a show of unity around education, health and student development.

The walk began at the Ministry of

Education on Brickdam, continued along Camp Street and ended at the Education Ground on Carifesta Avenue.

Education Minister, Sonia Parag, said the activity forms part of the ministry’s September calendar and reflects this year’s Education Month theme,

“From Classrooms to Communities: Education Transforms Lives”.

She described the walk as both a physical and symbolic step towards building stronger students and a stronger education system.

BARTICA SERVICE CENTRE CUTS COST, TRAVEL BURDEN FOR REGION SEVEN RESIDENTS



Bartica residents no longer have to travel for essential Government services

For years, accessing basic government services could mean a costly journey out of Region Seven. For residents of Bartica and surrounding communities, that burden is now being removed with the opening of a one-stop

Government Service Centre bringing essential services directly to the region.

Operational since August, the Bartica centre brings the Guyana Revenue Authority, General Register Office, Electronic Identification enrolment, National

Insurance Scheme and Immigration services together under one roof.

The demand is already evident. Approximately 6,000 transactions were processed in just over two weeks, highlighting the scale of the need for accessible government services in Region Seven.

Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, said the centre is lifting a burden that residents have carried for years.

“Today, that heavy burden is officially being lifted,” he said.

For residents, the impact is measured, not only in convenience, but in money and hours saved. Trips to

Georgetown or other regions for passports, identification, registration and other official transactions previously meant transportation, accommodation and other expenses.

Bartica resident, Chandra Dasraj, said the facility will benefit not only Bartica, but communities throughout the region.

Another resident, Naline Misir, recalled the cost and inconvenience of travelling to Georgetown to obtain a passport.

“You don’t have to travel to Georgetown and stand in that long line,” she said, describing the new

centre as a welcome relief.

The Bartica facility forms part of a wider Government push to decentralise public services. More than 204,000 transactions have already been completed through service centres operating across six regions, reducing the need for citizens to travel to Georgetown.

The rollout began in Leonora, Region Three, last December and has expanded to Fort Wellington, Anna Regina, Port Mourant, Lethem and now Bartica.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation Zulfikar

Ally said the objective is to make government services more predictable, accessible and efficient.

“It saves them time and money,”

Minister Ally said. The next phase will also take government services beyond physical locations. Minister Ally said the long-term goal is for citizens to access documents and services such as E-ID, passports, birth certificates and driver’s licences from home.

Government is now working to close remaining service gaps, including in Region One and Region Ten.

CITIZENS CONNECT RESOLVES 75% OF REPORTS SINCE MARCH LAUNCH

Government is resolving the majority of issues reported by citizens through the Citizens Connect App, with 1,423 of 1,883 reports, approximately 75 per cent, already fully addressed since the platform was launched in March.

The figure highlights the growing role of the digital platform in connecting citizens directly with government agencies and turning community concerns into actionable responses.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and

Implementation Zulfikar Ally said the results reflect President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali’s vision of a government that responds to citizens in real time.

“I will always speak about the Citizens Connect App...because it really is what President Ali wants to see of government, which is responding in real time to the issues and the concerns of the citizens of Guyana,” Minister Ally said.

The platform allows users to report concerns from their mobile devices, including issues



affecting communities and public services. Reports can be submitted with photographs and

geolocation details, allowing agencies to identify problems more accurately, while users

can track progress and receive updates.

Government’s target is to resolve reports within 24 hours wherever possible, although some matters require coordination among multiple agencies, including Neighbourhood Democratic Councils, the Ministry of Public Works and Guyana Water Incorporated.

Minister Ally said reports are pursued continuously until they are resolved.

“Once the issue is put there, we work on it nonstop until it is resolved,” he said.

Reports are initially reviewed by the Ministry before being directed to the relevant government agency. Dedicated teams have been established across ministries and agencies to engage citizens and provide updates.

Importantly, Minister Ally said the platform is not simply a complaints mechanism. Citizens can use it to flag emerging problems and suggest matters they want government to address.

With three out of every four reports already resolved, Citizens Connect is providing a measurable channel for citizens to bring problems directly to government, and see action follow.

MANDATORY TRAINING TO RAISE STANDARDS ACROSS PUBLIC SERVICE



Customer Service Training targets public sector culture

Government is moving to make customer service a standard of public sector performance, with public

servants who interact directly with citizens set to undergo mandatory training aimed at changing how services

are delivered across the country.

Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Zulfikar Ally, said the initiative will be rolled out across all regions and will form part of the training requirements for new public servants whose duties involve direct contact with the public.

“We are embarking now on a customer service training for all of the public servants who

have to interface with the public,” Minister Ally said.

The initiative comes against a broader push to modernise government services through regional service centres, digital platforms and more efficient systems. However, Minister Ally stressed that better infrastructure and technology cannot compensate for poor treatment of citizens.

The objective, he said, is to ensure citizens accessing government services are met

with respect, dignity, understanding and patience, while changing the culture of service delivery across the public sector.

Minister Ally acknowledged that many public servants routinely go beyond their responsibilities to assist citizens, but warned that poor conduct by a few officers can damage public confidence in the wider service.

He said recurring complaints about individual officers should also trigger reflection

and corrective action.

“We’re going to issue that public service training to every single public servant until we change the culture of our country... and we ensure that people are at the forefront of the development of our country,” he said.

The training drive builds on more than 3,480 public servants who have received training over the past year in areas including professionalism and ethics, ICT literacy, project management, digital transformation and customer service.

GUYANA SECURES SEAT AT TABLE SHAPING GLOBAL AIR TRANSPORT RULES

Guyana is no longer merely expanding its aviation infrastructure and connectivity; it is gaining a voice in the international bodies that determine how global air transport operates.

The country has secured a seat on the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Air Transport Regulation Panel (ATRP), effective July 28, 2026, placing Guyana among the technical experts contributing to the development and refinement of the economic and legal framework governing international air

transport.

The appointment marks a significant step in Guyana's growing aviation profile and gives the country an opportunity to influence policies that affect connectivity, market access and the development of international air services.

Director General of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Egbert Field, said Guyana's appointment represents the culmination of a request first made in 2019.

"Guyana's



Representing Guyana on the panel will be GCAA's Deputy Director General Dr. Saheed Sulaman

appointment to the ATRP is another step in the right direction," Field said, describing the development as a "pivotal opportunity" for Guyana to make a greater contribution to global air transport regulation.

Representing Guyana on the panel will be GCAA's Deputy

Director General Dr. Saheed Sulaman, whose regional and international aviation experience includes participation on the CARICOM Technical Negotiating Team on Air Services, chairmanship of the Association of Caribbean States' Special Committee on Transport and service as an ICAO Global Ambassador.

The appointment comes as Guyana pursues a 10-Pillar National Aviation Policy under President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, aimed at positioning the country as a premier regional aviation hub and expanding connectivity.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, said Guyana's growing representation at regional and global levels reflects deliberate government policy, describing the country's aviation development as "outstanding."

The ATRP appointment therefore represents more than recognition, it gives Guyana a seat where the rules governing international aviation are discussed and shaped.

CJIA TO ROLL OUT NEW BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM

The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) is on track to complete installation of a state-of-the-art baggage handling system by the end of September, significantly easing congestion at the check-in area while strengthening baggage security.

Engineering and Maintenance Manager, Voshana Lall, said the new system will replace the current manual screening process, under which passengers must have their luggage screened separately before checking in.

"Within a few weeks, this will be here," Lall said, noting that the congestion currently experienced at the check-in area will be eliminated.

Under the new system, passengers will check in and weigh their luggage at the counter, after which bags will travel by conveyor belt through the screening process before being loaded onto an aircraft. The automated arrangement mirrors systems used at major international airports.

Security will also

be enhanced through continuous CCTV monitoring of luggage from check-in through loading. Baggage screeners and law enforcement officers stationed at the airport will also be required to wear body cameras.

The upgrade forms part of a wider modernisation programme at CJIA, which includes construction of a new air traffic control tower and Terminal 2, a 150,000-square-foot arrivals facility being developed with UK-based BHM Construction and Manchester Airport Group.

Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar, has pointed to rising aircraft movements, from about 64,000 in 2020 to nearly 100,000 in 2025, as driving the need to expand airport capacity.

Lall said testing and commissioning will take place alongside installation, with the system expected to be fully operational following completion.



Works ongoing on the state-of-the-art baggage handling system at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport

PM PHILLIPS CALLS FOR A STRONGER COMMERCIAL BRIDGE WITH MEXICO



The reception marking Mexico's Independence Anniversary

Guyana is looking to turn its longstanding friendship with Mexico into stronger commercial ties, with Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips pointing to opportunities for greater investment, trade, technical cooperation and skills development as Guyana's economy expands.

PM Phillips made the case while addressing a reception marking the 216th anniversary of Mexico's Independence, where he highlighted Mexico's transformation into a major industrial and trading nation and its expertise in manufacturing, agriculture, energy, engineering, logistics,

innovation and technology.

He said these areas align closely with Guyana's development priorities and encouraged greater participation by Mexican businesses and investors in the local economy.

"As Guyana continues on its transformative development trajectory, we value the friendship and support of partners such as Mexico," PM Phillips said.

He also pointed to the Mexico-Guyana Chamber of Commerce as an important vehicle for moving relations beyond diplomatic goodwill and towards concrete commercial

partnerships.

"[Its] initiatives are paving the way for partnerships, encouraging dialogue, and transforming goodwill into concrete economic opportunities that will inure to the benefit of our citizens," he said.

Beyond trade and investment, Phillips highlighted Mexico's contribution to Guyana's human-capital development through scholarships, Spanish-language and diplomatic training, and technical assistance.

The Prime Minister said the relationship, built over more than five decades on mutual

dispute resolution, principles that remain central to Guyana's own foreign policy.

PM Phillips expressed confidence that the two countries can build on that foundation to create greater opportunities for their citizens and advance sustainable development and regional progress.

respect and shared values, provides a strong foundation for broader cooperation.

He also reaffirmed Guyana's appreciation for Mexico's commitment to multilateralism, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful



The reception marking Mexico's Independence Anniversary

PURUNI BRIDGE TO UNLOCK MAJOR MINING AND FORESTRY CORRIDOR



Permanent Puruni Bridge to strengthen Region 7’s productive economy

A permanent bridge is set to replace the fragile pontoon crossing at Puruni, opening a stronger transport link through one of Region Seven’s most productive mining and forestry corridors while bringing

new infrastructure and services to surrounding communities. The 109-metre modular steel bridge, being constructed by Aris Mining, with supporting access roads, will provide a safer and more reliable

route for the movement of workers, equipment, fuel, timber and other heavy industrial supplies. The project will serve an economic corridor encompassing nearly 500 mining properties and concessions, alongside several major forestry concessions, giving businesses and operators more dependable access to their activities. By shifting heavy industrial traffic away from the main community road, the project is also expected to improve safety and reduce pressure on local road infrastructure. But the investment extends beyond the movement of extractive-sector goods. Plans include a multi-purpose Government facility, health centre, digital school facility, playground, agricultural area and formal waste-disposal site, bringing essential infrastructure and services closer to communities within the resource-producing area. Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, said the project reflects Government’s broader approach to ensuring that growth in the natural resources sector produces benefits



Permanent Puruni Bridge to strengthen Region 7’s productive economy

beyond the industries themselves. The project has advanced through reconnaissance, site investigations, planning and design development, with construction now commencing. The Ministry of Natural Resources will coordinate the project, while the Ministry of Public Works will provide technical oversight. Completion is targeted for December 2026.

BUYING MINING LAND? GGMC ADVISES THAT YOU CHECK BEFORE YOU PAY



GGMC warns against illegal sale of mining lands

The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) is warning miners, investors and members of the public against buying or selling mining lands through unauthorised private

arrangements, stressing that Irrevocable Powers of Attorney (IPOAs) do not prove ownership or lawful tenure. The Commission said the practice of selling or purporting to sell mining

properties granted for specific mining purposes has become a matter of serious concern and warned that persons entering such transactions could face significant financial and legal risks. Mining lands and related tenures are granted to individuals and entities for mining activities in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and conditions. Tenure holders therefore cannot sell, assign or transfer those rights unless the transaction is authorised under the legal and regulatory framework. The GGMC specifically cautioned against using IPOAs to facilitate the purported sale, transfer or acquisition of mining properties. An IPOA, the Commission stressed, **“in itself, is not acceptable proof of ownership or lawful tenure” of mining property.** The warning comes as the Commission moves to protect the integrity of Guyana’s mining tenure system and prevent irregular transactions involving

the country’s mineral resources. At the same time, the GGMC said legitimate investors and miners can still collaborate to develop mining properties through properly structured Joint Venture arrangements and other lawful mechanisms. Such arrangements must be appropriately documented and submitted to the Commission for approval. The GGMC is urging anyone considering a transaction involving mining lands to seek clarification directly from the Commission before signing agreements or making financial commitments. Members of the public are also being warned not to rely solely on private contracts, receipts, powers of attorney or other documents presented by sellers as evidence that they have the legal authority to dispose of a mining property. The Commission said it will continue monitoring the situation and take regulatory or other appropriate action where necessary.

SEAWALL VENDORS FACE REMOVAL OVER PERMIT BREACHES

Vendors operating along the Kingston Seawall are facing removal if they continue to breach the conditions of their provisional approvals, as the Government moves to restore order, safety and standards along the heavily used corridor. Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill issued the warning during a meeting with vendors after the Ministry identified a growing list of violations, including unauthorised subletting, illegal electrical connections, excessive noise, poor sanitation, structural extensions and vendors living inside their stalls.

“You all would have written and applied for these spots. You would have gotten provisional approval based upon certain conditions, which is lawful,” Minister Edghill said, noting that standards had deteriorated despite previous interventions. The minister was particularly firm on vendors occupying stalls as living quarters, instructing the Sea and River Defence Board to immediately remove anyone found residing on the reserve. He also warned that vendors operating outside designated areas could lose their places

permanently, stressing that there would be no return after removal. The crackdown extends to unauthorised permanent structures created from mobile vending carts and illegal occupation of the seawall reserve. Edghill cautioned that anyone removed during future development should not expect compensation for structures erected without approval. Cleanliness is also under scrutiny. Despite the installation of nearly 40 garbage receptacles along the corridor, the ministry remains concerned about poor maintenance and sanitation. Continued neglect could result in permits being revoked, while patrol teams will maintain regular monitoring. At the same time, the Government is seeking to protect vending as a livelihood while bringing greater order to public spaces. Minister of Local Government and Regional Development Priya Manickchand has begun consultations with Woolford Avenue vendors following the first phase of infrastructure upgrades there, stressing that displacement is not the objective. Instead, the Government is



Seawall vending faces new rules as Government restores order

considering more consultations with vendors, canteen operators and head teachers are planned. The approach signals a clear position that livelihoods will be accommodated, but not at the expense of safety, public order, sanitation or the proper use of public infrastructure. F u r t h e r

10,000+ ROAD PROJECTS BRING BETTER ACCESS TO COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE



10,000+ roads and community projects reaching every region

Guyana’s road network is being reshaped on a scale that is reaching communities in every region, with more than 10,000 roads and community projects taking infrastructure development from mud dams and deteriorated timber bridges to concrete roads, rigid pavements and modern crossings.

Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill said the breadth of the programme represents one of the Government’s most significant achievements, with

projects delivered across communities regardless of their location.

“We have been able to make interventions... in each and every village in each and every region... we have delivered development without discrimination,” Minister Edghill said.

The programme has also created opportunities for more than 10,000 small contractors, allowing local businesses to build their capacity while participating directly in the country’s infrastructure expansion.

The infrastructure drive extends beyond road surfacing. Communities are seeing deteriorated wooden and timber bridges replaced, while new walkways are providing safer routes for children travelling to school and reducing their exposure to traffic.

Minister Edghill said the success of the programme should not be judged simply by kilometres of roadway built or the volume of concrete used.

The real measure, he said, is what changes for people.

For residents, improved roads

and bridges mean easier movement to schools, businesses, health services and neighbouring communities, while better connectivity can also support local commerce and economic activity.

The scale of the programme points to a broader shift in how communities connect to opportunity, with infrastructure reaching beyond major corridors and into villages across Guyana.



10,000+ roads and community projects reaching every region

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT FALLS ON GUYANA'S COMMUNITY TOURISM

G u y a n a ’ s community-led tourism sector is gaining international exposure, with five Guyana-based tourism businesses added to Tourism Cares’ Global Meaningful Travel Map, putting Indigenous communities, conservation initiatives and locally driven tourism experiences in front of the global travel industry.

The initiative, supported by the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA), connects international travel companies with vetted tourism businesses and experiences that



Guyana’s interior tourism takes centre stage globally

demonstrate community benefit, conservation and responsible tourism.

The five featured Impact Partners are Iwokrama River Lodge, Karanambu Lodge, Caiman House Field Station, Rewa Eco Lodge and Wilderness Explorers.

Their inclusion showcases a model of tourism that goes beyond attracting visitors, with tourism revenues and activities supporting conservation, cultural preservation, Indigenous participation and local livelihoods.

At Iwokrama, more than 90 per cent of its staff are from nearby Indigenous communities, while Caiman House directs its revenue surplus towards the village library, wildlife conservation and

cultural preservation.

Rewa Eco Lodge is community-owned and operates as part of a broader sustainable livelihood model.

The global recognition builds on a wider expansion of community tourism across Guyana. The GTA has supported 69 Indigenous communities across all 10 administrative regions, while more than 6,000 people have received tourism-related training and 18 community-based tourism experiences have been launched.

Guyana’s tourism growth is providing an increasingly strong market for these experiences. The country welcomed a record 453,489 visitors in 2025, a 22 per cent increase over 2024. From January to July of this year, 271,592 visitors were recorded, up 12 per cent over the same period last year.

Guyana’s presence on the Meaningful Travel Map spans active exploration, birding, conservation and sustainable travel, culture and heritage, and nature and wildlife.

For communities and businesses seeking to grow tourism beyond established destinations, the platform offers global visibility that can attract more visitors, foster strategic partnerships and create new economic opportunities.

SAFETY FIRST AS EDUCATION MINISTRY ACTS ON SCHOOL CONCERNS



Zeeburg Secondary to get urgent attention

The Education Ministry is taking a firm approach to school safety and infrastructure, with contractors at Mackenzie High School given two weeks to complete outstanding remedial works while an entire wing at Zeeburg Secondary School has been evacuated pending

a structural assessment.

At Mackenzie High in Linden, Minister of Education, Sonia Parag, personally inspected the school’s classrooms, compound and key facilities before directing contractors to complete the remaining works within the stipulated timeframe.

The programme includes repainting, electrical upgrades and plumbing repairs aimed at improving the condition of the school and creating a more functional environment for students and teachers.

Minister Parag also asked the school’s administration and Parent-Teacher Association to keep her directly informed of the progress, underscoring the ministry’s focus on ensuring the works are completed rather than simply initiated.

At Zeeburg Secondary School on the West Coast of Demerara, the ministry has taken a more immediate precautionary approach following concerns about the condition of the school’s eastern wing.

The entire wing has been evacuated, removing approximately 10 classrooms from use, five upstairs and five downstairs, including



Two weeks to Fix Mackenzie High

what remedial action is required and guide the ministry’s next steps.

Rather than allowing the temporary disruption to halt learning, teachers have been commended for keeping students engaged and continuing the curriculum under the adjusted arrangements.

The two interventions point to a broader approach by the Education Ministry, fix problems where repairs are needed, remove students from potentially unsafe spaces where necessary, and assess before deciding on major remedial works.

Minister Parag said preventative action must remain central to school management, particularly where the safety of students and teachers is concerned.

The message is direct, better schools are not only about new buildings and upgrades, they must first be safe places in which children can learn.

PM PHILLIPS CHALLENGES INNOVATORS TO TURN IDEAS INTO WORKABLE SOLUTIONS

Guyana’s digital transformation drive is moving beyond simply connecting communities to the internet, with the Government challenging local innovators to develop practical technology.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark Phillips issued the challenge while addressing the closing ceremony of the sixth Innovation Challenge at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre.

Held under the theme “*Transitioning through Innovation*”, the competition is being used by the Government to build human capital, promote entrepreneurship and turn Guyanese ideas into workable solutions.

Prime Phillips pointed to the rapid expansion of the country’s digital infrastructure, noting that high-speed internet is now available at more than 3,800 public locations, while all 253 hinterland, remote and rural communities have been reached through public buildings and spaces.

He said 97 per cent of schools, 92 per cent of health facilities and all fire stations are now connected to high-speed internet.



Young innovators brought into national push to build Digital Guyana

But the Prime Minister stressed that connectivity alone cannot deliver a strong digital economy.

Between 2021 and 2026, Government invested **nearly \$1.8 billion in ICT hubs across hinterland communities**, training more than 3,000 people

from 200 communities. Women accounted for approximately 75 per cent of those trained.

The next challenge, Prime Minister Phillips said, is ensuring Guyanese have the skills to use these technologies while maintaining public trust through cybersecurity, data protection and responsible governance.

He also highlighted digital public services including the national electronic identification system, My Guyana Citizen Portal, Citizen Connect and AI-supported platforms such as AskGov.

This year’s Innovation Challenge introduced a stronger emphasis on research, design thinking, prototyping, user testing, responsible AI and implementation.

For the first time, a Junior Category was also introduced, creating an earlier entry point for young Guyanese into the national innovation ecosystem.

Prime Minister Phillips urged participants to think beyond winning the competition and build solutions capable of becoming businesses, public services or products for regional and international markets.

NEW CULINARY HUB TO EQUIP WOMEN, GROW GUYANA'S FOOD INDUSTRY



Roots and Flavours Hub opens doors to culinary careers and enterprise

A new chapter has opened for Guyana’s culinary industry with the official launch of the Roots and Flavours Hub at the Guyana Women’s Leadership Institute (GWLI) in Cove and John, East Coast Demerara.

The state-of-the-art culinary training facility is designed to equip women with practical skills while creating pathways into employment, entrepreneurship and Guyana’s expanding food, tourism and hospitality industries.

Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr Vindhya Persaud, said the initiative is intended to

take Guyanese cuisine beyond the home and into wider markets.

“The vision is to celebrate the flavours of our heritage and culture through Roots and Flavours, ensuring that Guyanese cuisine finds a place on every table, reaches beyond our borders, and helps develop a vibrant, thriving street food industry,” she said.

The hub will provide free culinary training, business incubation, mentorship and support for women seeking to turn their skills and ideas into viable enterprises. It will also promote the preservation of Guyana’s culinary heritage while encouraging innovation and creating new economic opportunities.

The launch featured a pop-up exhibition showcasing products from women entrepreneurs who have benefited from ministry-led initiatives.

Destiny Hines, co-founder of A la Carte, welcomed the growing support for small businesses and young professionals. Her company produces healthy baked goods, including vegan, gluten-free and allergen-free options.

Debbie Argyle, owner of Magnificent

Enterprise, which produces scented candles, organic soaps and agricultural products, said free training has provided women with practical skills that can support their families and businesses.

“You don’t have to pay for it,” she said, encouraging women to sign up and gain skills that can benefit them for life.

The Roots and Flavours Hub is ultimately aimed at turning culinary talent into economic opportunity, while taking Guyana’s distinctive flavours, traditions and food culture to new audiences at home and abroad.



Roots and Flavours Hub opens doors to culinary careers and enterprise

TECHNICAL STUDENTS TO GAIN PAID INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS AND AVIATION TRAINING



Signing of the agreement between the Ministry of Education and Farfan&Mendes

The Ministry of Education has secured major new opportunities for technical students through two strategic partnerships that will provide paid industry placements, specialised training, and accredited aviation programmes aimed at strengthening Guyana’s future workforce.

The agreements link the Guyana Industrial Training Centre (GITC)

with Farfan & Mendes, while also connecting the Essequibo Technical Institute (ETI) with the Art Williams and Harry Wendt Aeronautical Engineering School (AWHWAES) and the Board of Industrial Training (BIT).

Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, GITC students will benefit from structured work placements at Farfan & Mendes, gaining direct exposure to industry operations while receiving safety equipment, specialised training, insurance coverage and daily stipends. Students will work five days per week, allowing them to build practical skills in real-world environments before entering the labour market.

Deputy Chief Education Officer for Technical Education, Dr Ritesh Tularam, said the partnerships are essential to ensuring students graduate with both technical knowledge and hands-on experience.

“ T h e s e

collaborations provide access to modern facilities, technologies, methodologies and practical experiences that complement institutional training,” he said.

Farfan & Mendes Human Resources Manager, Glivann Cameron, said the company has long benefitted from graduates of Guyana’s technical institutions, noting that some former trainees have remained with the company for more than two decades.

Meanwhile, a new 12-month Aircraft Maintenance Foundation Programme will be launched through ETI and AWHWAES, leading to a Level One Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ). Training will be delivered both at the aviation school’s Ogle campus and ETI satellite locations in Essequibo, broadening access to specialised aviation education.

BIT will fund the tools, equipment and study materials required for the programme, further expanding career pathways in one of Guyana’s fastest-growing sectors.

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR VICTORY VALLEY IN NEXT NINE MONTHS



The Head of State interacting with a resident of Victory Valley

Residents of Victory Valley are set to benefit from a new community facility within the next nine months, as Government accelerates work on the Victory Valley Community Centre.

President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, during his engagement with residents, said the facility forms part of the next phase of development in the community, with a focus on creating greater opportunities for residents.

The Centre is being positioned as more than a recreational facility. It is expected to serve as a hub for training, education, youth development and women’s empowerment, providing residents with greater access to programmes and opportunities to build skills and improve their livelihoods.

Ali said the next stage of development must focus not only on physical infrastructure, but also on strengthening the productive capacity of communities so residents can take advantage of new economic opportunities.

enhance livelihood, and we can enhance income,” he said.

This approach will include opportunities in agriculture, agro-processing, tourism and small business development, alongside access to financing

for residents to access training, develop skills, organise around productive activities and become more directly involved in the community’s economic advancement.

The President said the Government’s relationship with Region 10 has been built on trust, commitment and hard work, but emphasised that the next phase must place greater emphasis on empowerment, productivity and improved quality of life.

“The only way we can grow is if we build the productive capacity of the community, if we invest in the productive capacity,” he said.

The accelerated Centre comes against the backdrop of continued investment across Region 10 in roads, housing, connectivity and economic infrastructure, creating stronger conditions for residents and businesses to access markets and pursue new opportunities.

For Victory Valley, the facility represents a tangible part of that next phase, a dedicated space where people can learn, develop skills and connect with opportunities.

And President Ali has signalled that the community’s development story is far from finished.

“If you believe you have seen transformation in Linden, you have not really seen the massive transformation that still lies ahead,” he said.



Residents of Victory Valley at the meeting

“We want to work with clusters of persons so that we can build projects, we can increase productivity, we can

and other government programmes.

For Victory Valley, the Community Centre is expected to provide an important platform

NEW GENERATOR TO DELIVER 24-HOUR ELECTRICITY IN KWAKWANI



The meeting in Kwakwani

Kwakwani is set to move closer to reliable 24-hour electricity with the delivery of an 800 KVA generator, turning a commitment made to residents into a tangible boost for one of Region Ten’s key communities.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d) Mark

Phillips announced the new generating capacity during a Cabinet outreach in Kwakwani, saying it is intended to address previous challenges and strengthen the community’s electricity supply.

“The 800 KVA generator will ensure that we have 24 hours electricity in Kwakwani,” the Prime Minister said.

The new unit comes after government commissioned a generating set in Kwakwani in 2021 that initially facilitated 24-hour electricity, but

subsequent challenges affected the reliability of the service. The additional capacity is expected to provide greater stability and help reduce disruptions for households, businesses and essential services.

But Prime Minister Phillips made clear that electricity is only one part of the development taking place in Kwakwani.

“Development in Kwakwani... is not just about roads, it’s not just about electricity,” he said, pointing to expanded ICT connectivity, community ICT hubs,

health services and other public investments.

The outreach also highlighted a different approach to delivering development, one that puts residents directly into the conversation.

Government officials engaged residents across Kwakwani, Ituni, Christianburg and other communities, recording concerns and priorities for follow-up by the relevant ministries.

Prime Minister Phillips said the issues raised are being entered into a central government database, creating a practical checklist for identifying



The meeting in Kwakwani



Region Ten gets \$204M Medical Distribution Centre

The Government is taking medical supplies closer to patients with the commissioning of a \$204 million Regional Medical Distribution Centre in Region Ten, strengthening the systems used to store and deliver essential medicines across the region.

Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret’d), Mark

NEW REGION TEN FACILITY SET TO SPEED UP DELIVERY OF MEDICINES

Regions One, Two, Six, Nine and Ten.

The new model will allow medicines and medical supplies to move from the central system in Georgetown to regional distribution centres before reaching hospitals, health centres and medical posts, reducing dependence on a single central distribution point.

Prime Minister Phillips said the investment represents a significant improvement in how healthcare supplies are managed and delivered, particularly to



Region Ten gets \$204M Medical Distribution Centre

communities outside the capital.

The Government is also combining the expanded distribution network with technology, including telemedicine and drones, to extend healthcare services and deliver medicines to remote and hard-to-reach communities.

The centre forms part of broader investments by the Ministry of Health to modernise healthcare infrastructure, expand telemedicine and strengthen pharmaceutical support at the regional level.

For Prime Minister Phillips, a Linden native, the project carries added significance as part of the continued development of Region Ten. He said recent Cabinet outreach in the region has further enabled Government to engage residents directly and identify additional projects based on local needs.

The investment signals a broader shift in healthcare delivery of bringing essential services, supplies and technology closer to the communities that need them.

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PRESIDENT ALI PUTS REGION 10 DEVELOPMENT ABOVE POLITICS



Cabinet outreach puts Region 10 residents at centre of development planning

President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has made it clear that Region 10's development will not be dictated by politics, as he announced further road and water works for Coomacka Mines, while outlining plans to expand housing, production and economic opportunities across the region.

During his outreach to residents, President Ali committed to another two kilometres of road being completed in Coomacka Mines before the end of the year, extending ongoing works towards Old England.

He also delivered a firm commitment on one of the community's longstanding concerns: water.

Following successful drilling at Old England, the President said he has directed the Guyana Water Incorporated to develop the well and extend the water supply to Coomacka Mines, despite the additional cost involved in constructing a p p r o x i m a t e l y 1.5 kilometres of transmission infrastructure.

"It is non-negotiable," President Ali said, making it clear that access to reliable water remains a priority.

But the President's message extended beyond individual projects. He explicitly rejected the idea that Region 10's development

programme would be withheld because of the region's political outcome at the 2025 elections.

The government, he said, remains committed to its manifesto promises and to advancing development across Linden and the wider region.

That commitment includes housing, with Ali saying the government intends to meet the housing needs of every applicant in Region 10. Innovative approaches to lower construction costs and improve residents' access to financing are also being pursued.

The economic agenda is equally ambitious. Through the Guyana Development Bank, government plans to support productive activity in agriculture, transportation, tourism and other sectors, with the aim of positioning Linden and Region 10 as a major production hub.

Poultry and swine production, cold-storage facilities and other

productive investments are among the areas being targeted.

For residents, the value of the outreach was also in being heard directly.

Wunita Garey of Three Friend Mine welcomed the opportunity to raise community concerns with the President, highlighting road improvements and school transportation while stressing the continued need for reliable transport for families.

Other residents, including Chapunna and Grace Rogers, also welcomed the engagement and opportunity to hear directly from the President.

The message from President Ali was ultimately direct, Region 10's development agenda is about delivering what communities need, and that commitment, he said, does not depend on politics.



Cabinet outreach puts Region 10 residents at centre of development planning



Cabinet outreach puts Region 10 residents at centre of development planning



Cabinet outreach puts Region 10 residents at centre of development planning

KURU KURU MOVES FROM PROMISES TO PROJECTS



Government steps up delivery drive in Kuru Kuru

Kuru Kuru is moving from community requests to concrete development action, with Government advancing a package of interventions targeting roads, water, electricity, housing, recreation and agricultural production.

The push follows President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali's engagement with residents and a subsequent return by a high-level ministerial team to ensure that commitments made during that visit translate into projects on the ground.

Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Public Affairs and Information, Kwame McCoy, said the follow-up is intended to keep implementation moving.

"It is important

that we come here to translate the President's commitments into concrete actions, so we can continually progress as a community," he said.

Among the most immediate projects is the upgrading of Kuru Kuru's recreational facilities. The existing ball field is expected to be fenced and equipped with a pavilion, washrooms and lighting, creating a safer and more functional space for young people and community activities.

President Ali had committed to getting the field upgraded within weeks.

The development push also targets one of the community's most pressing needs; water. Guyana Water Inc. has already drilled a well, installed a pump and

completed part of the distribution network, with an assessment underway to determine whether the system can be extended to more residents.

For farmers, the focus is on creating the infrastructure needed to increase production and

planned to strengthen the network and support communities along the Linden-Soesdyke Highway, including Linden.

Housing is another major component. Minister within the Ministry of Housing Vanessa Benn said



The follow-up meeting with the ministers

get produce to market reliably. Two shallow wells are planned for agricultural use, separate from the domestic water supply, while road improvements are expected to strengthen access during periods of heavy rainfall.

More than \$1 billion has already been invested in road works in the area since 2022, with another 15 to 20 roads planned.

Electricity capacity is also set for expansion, with two substations

Government is examining available land and options to expand housing along the corridor and address the existing demand.

Agriculture is being positioned as another pathway for economic opportunity, with plans for shade houses, crop-production clusters, swine farming and stingless-bee honey production, supported by financing opportunities through the Guyana Development Bank.

Minister of Labour

CDC Chairperson, Ray Ferrier, welcomed the follow-up, saying it demonstrates that community consultations can lead to tangible results.

For Kuru Kuru, the significance is increasingly clear, that the community's priorities are moving from a list of requests to a coordinated development agenda backed by Government action.

The continued ministerial presence in the community is giving residents a mechanism to track progress and raise new concerns.



Government steps up delivery drive in Kuru Kuru



The follow-up meeting with the ministers

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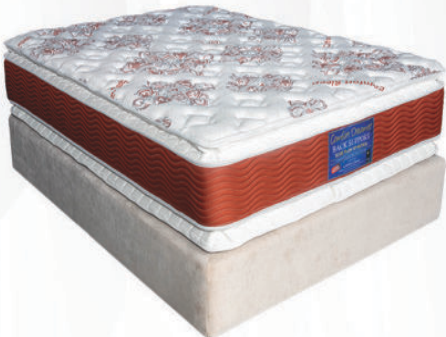
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Massive overhaul of power grid advances as outages remain ‘unacceptable’— President Ali

PRESIDENT Dr. Irfaan Ali on Monday called the scale and frequency of Guyana’s recent ‘blackouts’ unacceptable, citing a new Inter Energy assessment that found electricity demand is growing nearly five times faster than the regional average, even as billions of dollars are being poured into overhauling the power sector.

Speaking at a news conference, Dr. Ali said peak demand on the Demerara–Berbice Interconnected System (DBIS) climbed from roughly 205 megawatts in 2024 to 242.6 megawatts in August 2026, an 18 per cent growth rate compared with the three–four per cent average for power systems elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean.

That pace has outstripped upgrades to the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) network, leaving the system with no flexibility to take generating units offline for maintenance without risking a total collapse, the Head of State said.

“If anything goes wrong there, the entire system shuts down,” Dr. Ali said, noting the level of vulnerability unacceptable for a country undergoing the region’s fastest economic expansion.

He also pointed to a steep rise in fuel costs for power generation, refined gasoline imports up 51 per cent and diesel up 86.8 per cent since January, none of which has been passed on to consumers. Instead, he said, the government has injected tens of billions of dollars in extra subsidies into GPL to shield household budgets.

Dr. Ali acknowledged the strain of rapid growth but insisted the current pattern of outages “cannot continue.”

“Those are the challenges. I acknowledge that it is unpleasant. Some of it unacceptable, but that is why the smart grid has to be predictable,” he said.

He argued the utility can no longer rely on manual fixes, noting: “We can’t have any more two pickups driving up and down looking at the line, or having a shutdown when you’re waiting for one crew to leave with a hook to go to Parika with the pole to pull down the switch.”

The President added saying that while the efforts to enhance the system is costly, it cannot be avoided.

“All over the world, check, go and check the cost. It’s expensive,” Dr. Ali said.

Looking ahead, the Inter Energy report projects electricity demand will rise about 138 per cent by 2029, meaning Guyana will need more than double its current supply within five years.

The GPL is also expected to add over 62,000 new customers in that time, driven by new housing schemes, expanding industries and a wave of hotel and other large developments.

The report calls for a “massive holistic investment” in generation, transmission and distribution, rather than piecemeal fixes.

Dr. Ali presented the findings as both a warning and a roadmap, describing the current push as “the largest trans-



The outages are unacceptable, says President Ali

formation of the power system” in Guyana’s history.

That includes the gas-to-energy project’s planned expansion of genera-

tion capacity, a more diversified fuel mix to cut exposure to volatile prices, and more than 360 kilometres of new high-voltage transmission lines. New and ex-

panded sub-stations, smart metering, advanced control systems and battery energy storage are also part of the modernisation drive, he said.



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CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES			
DATES	ACTIVITIES	TIME	VENUE
August 31	Amerindian Religious Service	17:00hrs	Umana Yana
September 1	Amerindian Heritage Cultural Extravaganza (Opening Ceremony)	18:00hrs	Whirl Wind Village, Sophia
September 2 – 5	Amerindian Arts, Craft and Cuisine	10:00hrs Daily	Whirl Wind Village, Sophia
September 2 – 5	Amerindian Heritage Month Cultural Nights	19:00hrs	Whirl Wind Village, Sophia
September 6	Amerindian Fitness Walk	06:00hrs	Umana Yana to National Park
September 7	Amerindian Art Exhibition	18:00hrs	National Gallery of Art – Castellani House
September 10	Reflection on the Life of Stephen Campbell	19:00hrs	Santa Rosa, Moruca
September 12	Amerindian Heritage Village Day	10:00hrs	Bumbury, Region 1
September 14 - 18	School Tour (Kariako)	Daily	Office of the President and various National sites
September 18	Amerindian Heritage Dinner	19:00hrs	Royal Ballroom
September 19 - 20	Amerindian Heritage Safari	06:00hrs	MoAA to Fall Mouth, Reg 10
September 24 - 27	Amerindian Heritage Games	10:00hrs	Everest Ground
September 30	Amerindian Heritage Pageant	19:00hrs	National Cultural Centre