



Guyanese DIASPORA DIGEST



Keeping the Diaspora Informed

EDITION 13

NEW TAXATION, COOPERATION AGREEMENTS TO IMPROVE TRADE BETWEEN GUYANA, UAE



**NEW MERCHANT
BANK
FOR GUYANA**
- PAGE 3

**GUYANA
REMOVES EXCISE
TAX ON FUEL**
- PAGE 9

PRESIDENT OUTLINES VAST GUYANA, CARIBBEAN REGION POTENTIAL AT GLOBAL INVESTMENT FORUM



H.E Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali addressing the panel discussion at the Global Business Forum- LATAM in Dubai

His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali said that his government intends to use the examples of countries such as the United Arab Emirates and best practices around the world to enhance and develop Guyana.

The President made the statement during a panel discussion in Dubai at the Global Business Forum LATAM (Latin America) under the theme ‘Lessons in diversification and partnership’ at the Dubai Exhibition Centre.

“We are not in competition with anyone, and we don’t want to be in a race with anyone, and this is our global position. We just want to use the best examples, best practices to do the

best we can do for the people of our country and the people of the region—giving them a better shot at life, a better shot at prosperity and ensuring that revenues help to build an economy that reduces inequality and disparity,” President Ali told the forum which was attended by several regional leaders, including the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E Jair Bolsonaro and President of the Republic of Colombia, H.E Ivan Marquez.

The forum held under the Patronage of Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Mak-

toum sought to explore how the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) can bolster each other’s economies post-pandemic.

During his address the Guyanese Head of State highlighted that Guyana is working closely with the UAE in a number of areas, including infrastructure development, improving efficiency in governance systems and technology transfer.

The President underscored that technology advancement and improved efficiency in transparency and accountability in governance are key to success.

He said that the two States are collab-

orating on an investment agreement that would make it easier for investors from the UAE to invest in Guyana. Reference was made to the development of a Deep-water Harbour Port with Abu Dhabi Ports in collaboration with Brazil that will give access to the Atlantic, a visa-free waiver programme and a double taxation agreement.

“So, these are important agreements that will build a platform and create a conducive environment through which investors will feel comfortable coming, but more importantly, in which we will have government to government and people to people collaboration and cooperation.”

President Ali also spoke of the CARICOM region’s willingness to accept investment and said that there is “no pushback against globalisation”.

He noted that the Region is very open and pointed out that one of its largest trading partners is the United States of America, and that there are economic partnership agreements with the European Union as well as Latin American countries and other nations.

“So, we have a very open system to international investment. We’re very strong on reform, and we understand very clearly the impact of rising food prices and rising prices in everything.”

President Ali was

accompanied by the Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar MP; CEO of GO-Invest, Dr Peter Ramsaroop and Director of Projects in the Office of the President, Mrs. Marcia Nadir-Sharma to Dubai.

While there he also attended and addressed the Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF2022), hosted by the Caribbean Export Development Agency, in association with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA). The President also met with Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.



The Global Business Forum LATAM



H.E. Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoud

NEW TAXATION, COOPERATION AGREEMENTS TO IMPROVE TRADE BETWEEN GUYANA, UAE

The Governments of Guyana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have inked two agreements that will outline tax rules to pave the way for business and investments, and to mutually-beneficial governance support.

The agreements were signed as part of President Dr. Irfaan Ali's visit to the Middle-Eastern country.

The first agreement - Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion - provides

paying taxes for the same goods or services in both countries.

In the case of the UAE, the existing taxes to which the agreement applies includes income tax and corporate tax. For Guyana, it applies to income tax (including withholding tax), corporation tax, capital gains tax and property tax.

The agreement outlines that those taxes should be paid in the contracting state. In other words, if a Guyanese-owned

emptions, however, for specific sectors outlined in the agreement.

Simultaneously, by specifying how services provided will be taxed, the agreement seeks to curtail tax evasion – that is, the non-payment of taxes usually by making false declarations. In some instances, the agreement specifies the percentage tax that should be collected.

The second agreement - Cooperation in the field of Government Development



H.E Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Awith Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

capacities, within the process of enhancing governance, by benefiting from the mutual efforts in developing government practices, building institutional capabilities and skills, and other areas of

cooperation. Areas of cooperation covered under this agreement includes government services, government accelerators, programming, statistics and competitiveness, smart

services, government performance, innovation and excellence, leadership capacity building and strategic foresight, planning and strategy management.



Minister within the Ministry of Public Works Deodat Indar and UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoud signing one of the agreement in Dubai

a framework to protect a taxable unit – be it contractors, companies, partnerships or even the state – from

company is operating in the UAE, taxes should be paid to the UAE and vice versa. There are some ex-

and Modernisation – aims at strengthening and developing joint action for boosting institutional



Cooperation in the field of Government Development and Modernization Agreement signed

NEW MERCHANT BANK FOR GUYANA



Dr. Floyd Haynes

Vice President, Dr. Bharat Jagdeo announced that Guyana is on the verge of licensing a new merchant bank that will target the rapidly emerging large-business sector.

He made the announcement during a meeting with residents of Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam).

“We just licensed a merchant bank- a Guyanese guy who got it, the licence- and they are setting up a bank; it’s not a depository taking bank, but they can probably do discounting and

things like that,” he said.

Governor of the Bank of Guyana, Dr. Gobin Ganga said negotiations with principals of the financial institution started about one year ago. He said the licence is being finalised and the location has been already identified.

“I can confirm that we are in the process of finalising the requirements for such a licence,” he said, noting that the Bank of Guyana will be conducting an onsite inspection.

Merchant banks historically deal with

commercial loans and investment. Dr. Ganga said a merchant would need an asset requirement of at least US\$500,000.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jagdeo underscored the significance of the milestone for Guyana, noting that there is no large-scale government facility to offer very large loans. He said government may have to extend guarantees which would require changes to the Central Bank Act and the structures related to commercial banks.

It was revealed that other merchant bank applications are also pending.

800 PART-TIME JOBS, MAJOR ROAD ENHANCEMENTS FOR ESSEQUIBO



Region Two GOAL Scholarship recipients at meeting held at the Anna Regina Secondary School



Vice President of Guyana, Dr. Bharat Jagdeo MP

Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo MP, whilst on a two-day outreach to Region Two announced government's aggressive move to create some 800 new part-time jobs for Essequibians.

The Vice President said the strategic plan will significantly supplement the income of a number of households across the region.

"Before I leave here you will see an ad come about for about 800 new jobs for people to get part-time work to supplement their family income.

"We want to co-invest, that is, we will build the factory for people who would like

to set up businesses in this region. Already we are working with some people in ICT, we are hoping to generate about 1,000 jobs," the Vice President said.

The Vice President announced too, that government is seeking to establish two major water treatment plants in the region, in keeping with the administration's promise to provide potable water to Guyanese nationwide.

Further, citizens in Essequibo will benefit from a US \$30 million state of the art hospital.

"Most of the service that you are getting from Georgetown hospital you will get

right here."

The region will also see the establishment of major community thoroughfares.

"This region alone we are going to put \$1 billion alone on community roads in this year's budget," VP



Rice farmers at the meeting with Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo MP

Jagdeo added.

During his visit to the region the VP visited several villages and engaged rice farmers, GOAL scholarship students and the business community.

During his

meetings, the Vice President encouraged residents to take advantage of the administration's co-investment initiative, explaining that the aim is to incentivise businesses in regions

which have minimum job opportunities.

"We have a facility where we will co-invest with someone, so if they come to Region Two and they want to build a factory here or a call centre, we are preparing to build the factory shell or the building so that we could cut their cost.

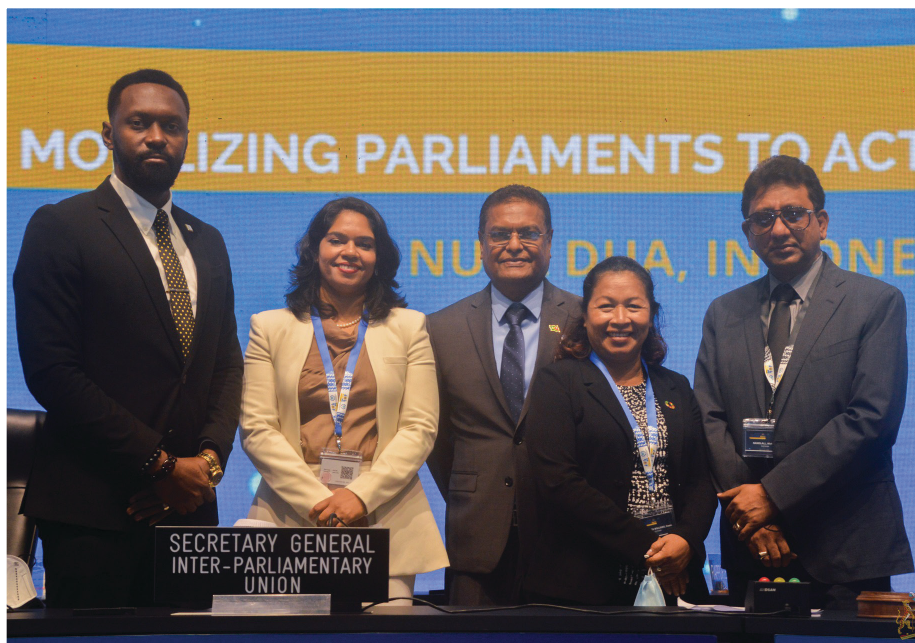
Further, he urged the regional authority to host regular engagements to iron out issues faced by the residents. A number of government ministers and officials are expected to return to the region to follow up on matters highlighted.

GUYANA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ATTENDS 144TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

A delegation headed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir, represented the Parliament of Guyana, at the 144th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Nusa Dua, Indonesia.

The delegation comprised from government Members of Parliament (MPs), Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Anil Nandlall; Minister of Public Service, Savitri Sonia Parag; Minister of Human Services and Social Security and Dr. Vindhya Persaud.

The Opposition MPs that also formed part of delegation were Dawn Hastings-Wil-



The Guyanese delegation at the Assembly

liams, and Chief Whip Christopher Jones, both from A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance for

Change (APNU+AFC). The Assembly saw all statutory bodies of the IPU participating in general debates,

which ran under the theme, "Getting to Zero: Mobilising Parliaments to act on climate change."

In his remarks to the Assembly, Speaker Nadir linked the current global climate change issues with Russia's growing invasion of Ukraine, stating that the world can no longer act like it does not exist.

He said Guyana continues to experience the damaging effects of climate change and called for definitive and binding resolutions by countries for progressive action in tackling climate change.

AG Nandlall also called on countries to implement strong climate change actions during his address to the Assembly, reminding delegates that

climate change is no longer an isolated and confined issue, but one that plagues every country in a unique way.

Speaking to Guyana's position on climate change, the AG assured that the country will continue to do all it possibly can to attain zero carbon emission.

Minister of Public Service, Sonia Parag also addressed the assembly, and shared a list of initiatives the Government of Guyana has implemented to leverage information and communication technology in education delivery.

GUYANA - SURINAME PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS COUNCIL FORMED

As the governments of Guyana and Suriname strengthen bilateral relations, the Private Sector Commission (PSC) of Guyana and the Suriname Trade and Industry Association (VSB) have also realized the importance of the involvement of the private sector as the engine for growth and development in both countries.

The PSC and the VSB established a Guyana-Suriname Private Sector Business Council, consisting of key representatives of the private sector, solely dedicated to the strengthening of economic ties and initiatives regarding our shared interests and the creation of the envisioned Single Market and Economy.

The intentions of the Business Council were shared with



© Kabinet van de President van Suriname

The newly formed council meeting with H.E Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Suriname

Suriname's President, His Excellency, Chandrikapersad Santokhi during courtesy visit by the newly established Council on 16th March 2022.

Mr. Paul Cheong, Chairman of the PSC described the day as historic. **"The relationship with Suriname is necessary. There are many synergies that we**

can achieve", Mr. Cheong said.

"The private sector will find opportunities to collaborate in the various sectors, and with the assistance of the Guyanese and Surinamese governments are working on the removal of all barriers for the realization of efficient

bilateral trade. When we come next time, we will not come with a list of issues, but with a detailed strategy", VSB Chairman Bryan Renten said.

The first official Council Meeting was held on March 16, 2022, where ambitious but necessary targets were set, and a meeting agenda for the

next 12 months was set out. The next council meeting is slated to be held in May 2022 in Guyana after which bi-monthly meetings will be held.

The Business Council will have joint leadership with VSB's Chairman Mr. Bryan Renten elected Chairman for the first six (6) months, after which the Chairmanship will

be handed over Mr. Paul Cheong for the next six (6) months.

President Santokhi pleaded for the relationship between Suriname and Guyana to be an example for the region. **"We will show the region how it should be done. We don't sit next to each other as competitors but as partners"**, the President said.

The Council consists of 10 members from the private sector of both countries. The members from the Surinamese side are Mr. Bryan Renten, Mr. Derrick Klaverweide, Mr. Rishie Parbhudayal and Mr. Farsi Khodabux while the members from the Guyana side are Mr. Paul Cheong, Mr. Norman Mc Lean, Mr. Ryan Alexander, Ms. Latoya Jack and Mr. Leekha Rambrich.

GOVT PARTNERING WITH RENOWNED HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS TO BOOST GUYANA'S HEALTH SYSTEM



The meeting with Peruvian team

His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfan Ali and several government officials met recently with a delegation from the renowned New York-based Mount Sinai Health System, at the Office of the President on Shiv Chanderpaul Drive.

The Mount Sinai Health System is a hospital network in New York with eight hospital campuses,

more than 6,600 primary and specialty care physicians and 13 ambulatory surgical centres.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, who joined the President, said the meeting was an **"excellent interaction."** He said government is working to build a partnership with the private healthcare institution.

Discussions cen-

tered on a national health plan and developing healthcare in specific areas such as oncology, cardiology and endocrinology, with specific focus on diabetes.

The visiting delegation, which included technical heads, will work with their local counterparts to develop a plan of action to move forward.

Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo;



H.E Dr Mohamed Irfan Ali, Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and Minister of Health Dr. Anthony MP meeting with the team from Mount Sinai

Chairman of the Board at the Georgetown Public Hospital, Dr Leslie Ramsammy and Director of Projects in the Office of the President, Mrs. Marcia Nadir-Sharma also attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, President Ali also recently met with an executive team from Intercorp - a conglomerate of multinational Peruvian companies which focuses on providing

financial, retail, education and healthcare services.

The 10-member delegation was led by company head, Carlos Rodriguez-Pastor.

President Ali first met with the group on the sidelines at the United Nations General Assembly in New York last September.

During the engagement, the Head of State was joined by Vice President,

Dr Bharrat Jagdeo; Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony; Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand; Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar and other government representatives

LOCAL CONTENT SECRETARIAT DEVELOPS GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

Guyana's recently established Local Content Secretariat has developed a grievance redress mechanism which seeks to understand the concerns of stakeholders on local content.

According to the online oil and gas information website OilNow, the initiative will accommodate input from stakeholders, which will drive its investigative and intervention methods.

Persons desirous of making a report should ensure their contact details, name of company, if any, details of their grievance – specifically how often it has occurred – as well as the desired outcome of the secretariat's intervention

are included.

The Local Content Secretariat, as provided for in the Local Content Act, is tasked with developing and maintaining measures for the effective implementation of local content by contractors, sub-contractors and licensees; developing and implementing strategies that will give preference to or ensure equal treatment of Guyanese nationals and companies; conducting market analysis; making recommendations to the minister; developing formats for local content plans and reporting; developing guidelines, including those for local content reporting, procurement, big evaluation,



training, research and development, partnership and joint ventures, and financial and insurance services.

In addition, the secretariat will be responsible for developing and maintaining the Local Content Register of qualified

Guyanese nationals and/ or their companies. It will recommend for approval or refusal, local content master plans and local content annual plans and proposals for modifications to the master and annual plans.

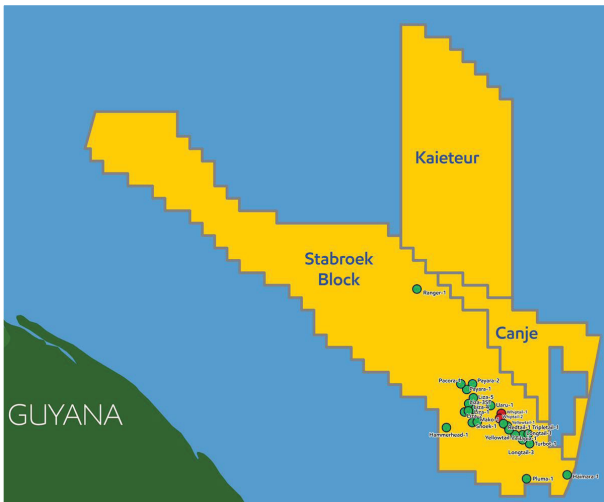
The secretariat

will develop auditing procedures and conduct regular audits for the purposes of monitoring and ensuring compliance with the legislation. It will also measure and report on the local content performance of contractors, sub-contractors or licensees.

The Ministry of Natural Resources said the operationalising of the Local Content Register as a significant move towards the operationalisation of its Local content secretariat. It is important to note that only those registered with the secretariat will be considered as local content.

The first schedule of the Act carves out 40 different services for Guyanese participation through the supply of goods and the provision of services which include: food supply, rental of office space, accommodation, insurance, accounting and legal services.

STABROEK BLOCK CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIES



ExxonMobil affiliate, Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL), is drilling another well, Kiru Kiru-1, at the Stabroek Block offshore Guyana.

A notice from Guyana's Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) stated March 14 as the start date for drilling activities, using the Stena Drill Max. These

activities are expected to conclude on July 30.

Drilling activities have been ongoing at Pinktail-1 and Patwa-1 which are expected to conclude soon. Drilling of the Lukanani-1 well should have concluded on March 22, according to a MARAD notice.

Exploration activities in the Stabroek block have yielded

more than 25 discoveries since 2015, altogether amounting to over 10 billion-oil equivalent barrels.

Guyana's total oil production will almost triple this year with the Liza Phase 2 Development now on stream at the ExxonMobil-operated Stabroek Block. This will add 220,000 bpd to the 120,000 bpd from Liza Phase 1.

A third project at

Payara, set to come on stream in 2024, will add another 220,000 bpd to Guyana's output, while the fourth and largest project to date, Yellowtail, will add a massive 250,000 bpd when it comes online in 2025/2026.

Yellowtail is currently pending approval from the Government of Guyana.

GUYANA COMMITTED TO HELPING VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS

President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, said his government has taken a humanitarian approach in its treatment of migrants, noting that a high-level task force has been established to address the issue.

He was speaking at the annual Police Officers' Conference, where he responded to an article in a local newspaper that sought to put Guyana in a bad light regarding its treatment of migrants.

President Ali urged persons to be responsible and consider

the implications such headlines have on Guyana's image.

He said government held a high-level meeting to address the issue on Wednesday.

"...Not only strategising as to how we support the migrants, but how do we incorporate them into communities, how do we support their livelihood, their hygiene, their health and we had a briefing with the international community.

"We are not running refugee

camps like many countries in which you cross the border and you are in a chain-link fence with razor wire all around you. We are approaching this from a humanitarian perspective," President Ali stated.

The taskforce includes the Guyana Defence Force, Guyana Police Force, members of Cabinet, the national security advisor, regional authorities and the international community.

Since taking office, government has made

several interventions to assist migrants here. Some of the interventions include providing medical care along with food hampers with special attention given to children.

In November 2021, government delivered tools to White Water and Khans Hill in Region One to help Venezuelan migrants build shelters.

Additionally, in 2021, government restored the multi-agency coordinating committee to address the influx of Venezuelan migrants.



H.E Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali

PRESIDENT LAUDS USAID, PEACE CORPS MANY POSITIVE IMPACT ON GUYANA

His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, attended a reception in honour of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Peace Corps 60th Anniversary at the US Ambassador's Residence on the East Coast of Demerara.

In his keynote address, the Guyanese Leader congratulated the agencies on reaching their milestones and their collaboration with Guyana over the years. He acknowledged the positive impact that USAID and the Peace Corps have had on the people of Guyana and the major role they play in the country's development.

"The objective here is to understand where the country is heading, and for us, together, to develop the vehicle that will



Toasting the 60th anniversary

take us there."

Dr. Irfaan Ali also spoke of the long-term partnership between the US and Guyana, noting the many areas of collaborations between the two countries.

"Whether it is security, whether it's developing a new master's programme at the University of Guyana,

whether it's working on institutional strengthening with the Perry Center, whether it's working on a bell chopper; what we are doing is building a long-term partnership in keeping with the country's objective and keeping with the vision of the country."

President Ali also

spoke of the changing global environment in which USAID and the Peace Corps operate, particularly as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

"In the world we live in today, I cannot share this platform without using it, as we celebrate 60 years

for the Peace Corps and USAID, I want to call on all those involved in the war in Ukraine, the invasion of Ukraine, to understand that there is a moral and ethical responsibility to return to peace, and more importantly, diplomacy. I saw the Secretary-General of the UN making

another call that diplomacy is not too late, but I want to say that it is not only about diplomacy, it is understanding that the world is suffering now. You may not see the world dying by rockets, but with oil at \$126, we are all suffering because of the war."

The President called the organisations **"important"** and said that they add value to the country.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh and several other Cabinet Ministers, Member of Parliament, Khemraj Ramjattan, members of civil society and members of the diplomatic community also attended the reception.

GUYANA JOINS GLOBAL 'SAVE SOIL' MOVEMENT



H.E Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali receiving a token from world famous yoga guru and spiritual master Jagadish Vasudev better known as 'Sadhguru'.

Guyana has joined the global 'Save Soil' movement spearheaded by world famous yoga guru and spiritual master Jagadish Vasudev better known as 'Sadhguru'.

The movement being peddled by Sadhguru forms part of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy. During his presentation at the

National Cultural Centre, Sadhguru said the movement is about protecting the soil for future generations as keeping the soil alive is everybody's business.

He explained that the lack of organic content in soil can lead to food crisis, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, climate change and even loss of livelihood.

To paint a vivid picture, he said that in a few years' time, the world will be producing 40 percent less food, which will be inadequate for a growing population. This is coupled with the fact that 52 percent of the agricultural soil is already degraded.

The movement to save soil, Sadhguru said is aimed at ed-

ucating the world on what is taking place and how it can be prevented. This, he noted can be done by ensuring there is at least three to six percent of organic content remaining in the soil, bringing the land under shade from vegetation and enriching the soil through plant litter and animal waste.

While Guyana is in a good position at present, Sadhguru encouraged the country

to keep its guard up and continue to preserve this necessary resource.

During his visit to Guyana, Sadhguru was hosted at breakfast reception at State House by the President Dr. Irfaan Ali and the First Lady.

He also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P, to preserve Guyana's soil.



The signing of the MoU

800 HOUSE LOTS DISTRIBUTED AT FIRST HOUSING DRIVE FOR 2022



One of the beneficiaries receiving her house lot number from Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues MP

Some 800 more Guyanese are now closer to homeownership, as the Ministry of Housing and Water hosted its first 'Dream Realised' house lot allocation exercise for 2022 at the National Stadium, Providence.

The moderate, middle and high-income house lots were allocated in the Grove Diamond Block-1 Housing Development, to persons who have been waiting for years.

Beneficiary,

Christopher Edmondson praised the government's housing programme which he said is in keeping with its manifesto promise.

"First, I want to thank the Government of Guyana for a fantastic initiative that they took and it's a clear indication that when they were campaigning this is one of the things they said in their manifesto. So, I want to thank them for this opportunity they have given me," Edmondson said.

He said he waited a very long time for the opportunity to own his own home and plans to start the process of construction once he is able to identify his land.

A young teacher, Karen Hazel said she was interviewed for her land in 2013 and has been waiting on this day since.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal noted that infrastructural projects and road upgrades on the East Bank corridor for



Residents awaiting their house lot allocation

this year will see the government investing close to \$14.8 billion.

This will see new infrastructural work being done in Great Diamond, Golden Grove, Little Diamond and Peter's Hall, as well as road upgrades at Herstelling, Perseverance, Peter's Hall and Eccles. The contracts for these works will be signed shortly.

"When the cost for the construction of the new four-lane highway from Eccles to Great Diamond,

which stands at \$13.3B is added to the new stock of projects, the total sum for new investments in the East Bank corridor is expected to be a staggering \$28 billion," he announced.

Minister within the Ministry of Housing and Water, Susan Rodrigues, M.P spoke about the role of homeownership in building strong families and sustainable communities.

"Owning your own home is an

extremely empowering thing... We want to get you to homeownership, we want you to move beyond getting a piece of land, we want you to achieve homeownership and that's why we have made so many interventions like zero rating construction materials," she said.

Meanwhile, a number of persons also received their land title/transport for lands they received in recent years.

GUYANA PUSHING VALUE-ADDED GOLD PRODUCT



Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, MP

The Ministry of Natural Resources recently hosted a meeting with jewelers and goldsmiths to explore ways to further develop Guyana's mining sector.

During the meeting, Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, M.P, called for more collaboration, noting that everyone needs to get on board to enhance the sector.

"[This is] to look at possible

ways in which we can collaborate, possible ways in which we can have more coordination and cooperation and also possible ways in which we can play a role in enhancing your services that you offer... especially at a time when Guyana is moving forward and moving forward at a fast pace," the minister said.

Minister Bharrat

said even as Guyana's oil and gas sector continues to expand, the government's priority is also to ensure that other sectors do not fall behind. He said the mining sector is important to the country's development, as it is the second highest contributor to the gross domestic product (GDP).

"We know too that the jewellery sector is especially linked to tourism and you would

have seen too, the emphasis and the focus that our government... has been placing on tourism."

The Natural Resources Minister also said the Government will be facilitating training for individuals in the mining sector which will be piloted by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), in collaboration with

the private sector.

"We have been losing a lot of skilled people, but at the same time I don't think we have been doing much to retrain or to train new people. We have to start that... So that is something I think we should look at both parties, meaning government and the jewellers," he noted.

He added that businesses can recruit persons to be trained, as well as skilled persons in the businesses can opt to become trainers.

Minister Bharrat noted that training is a necessary aspect in Guyana's expansion as there will be significant demand for products produced by this industry.



GUYANA REMOVES EXCISE TAX ON FUEL

Guyanese will be paying less for fuel at retail outlets as the government has removed excise tax from gasoline and diesel.

The reduction in excise tax on diesel and gasoline to zero is another step by the government to cushion the effects of the rising cost of living on Guyanese.

Vice President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, noted that when the government assumed office in 2020, the excise tax stood at 50 percent; however, it was reduced to 35 percent in February 2021, then to 20 percent in October that same year. A further reduction was made to 10 percent in the 2022 budget and now zero.

The Vice President explained that while the cost of fuel remains high due to external factors, the administration continues to subsidise costs by offering in-



The excise tax has been reduced from 50% to zero

centives, tax breaks, and other measures to supplement household income.

This has been a feature of the government since August 2020. To buffer the rising cost of living, a series of one-off cash grants were distributed to citizens. This included \$7.5 billion in aid to households, \$1.73 billion in economic grants to 220 Amerindian communities, \$1.3 billion in cash payments to nearly 5,300 severed

sugar workers, and \$2.2 billion to 90,000 people benefitting from old age pension and public assistance.

The return of the 'Because we care' cash grant and its subsequent increase and extension to children in private schools, as well as the increase in the school uniform grant placed \$3.3 billion in the pockets of parents of children attending public schools, and \$284.8 million to those in private schools.

Old age pensioners also got more monies in their pockets with increases in their pensions from \$20,500 to \$25,000, then from \$25,000 to \$28,000. Some 27,436 pensioners also benefitted from water subsidies, while credits to electricity charges were extended to 49,966 vulnerable households.

All these measures, along with the removal of a number of taxes, the Vice President highlighted,

have assisted in easing the burdens brought on by the pandemic and now the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

He said the PPP/C government is caring and sympathetic and is constantly examining ways to improve the lives of the citizens.

Meanwhile, the administration has already assured of other relief measures will be put in place to assist citizens with rising cost of living.

His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali said that his government will have a national consultation on the best options to address the rising cost of living, with the intent of easing financial difficulties on Guyanese.

He noted that having meetings with a cross-section of stakeholders would allow for open and frank discussions in addressing "this multifaceted problem that

we are faced with".

The Head of State assured that his government is "aggressively" tackling the issue and examining the best approach.

"We have already started discussions, and the Government will be continuing that aggressively with a cross-section of Guyanese and communities so that we can come up with the best possible approach; listening to ideas, listening to some of the connected issues and then coming up with some policies."

\$5B IN RELIEF MEASURES

He reminded that nearly \$5b has been earmarked in the 2022 Budget towards various interventions aimed at easing the burden of the rising cost of living.

INAUGURAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE LAUNCHED

Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips affirmed government's commitment to supporting technologically-driven innovations as part of its development agenda. He was at the time speaking at the launch of the Inaugural Innovation Challenge

2022. The Prime Minister explained that the Government is steadfast in creating a digital ecosystem in Guyana which will create a variety of benefits for Guyanese people.

He said the use of ICT has multi-sectoral

benefits that would widely impact the country's growth.

"We see ICT as a driver of change, a tool for innovation and development and an eliminator of social barriers... ICT can effectively ensure government transparency, citizen partici-

pation, international economic integration, improve living standards, narrow the digital divide and improve biodiversity utilisation and management".

The event, themed "transitioning through innovation", was coordinated by the Industry and Innova-



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips speaking at the launch of the Inaugural Innovation Challenge

tion Unit of the Prime Minister's Office, in collaboration with

Prime Minister Phillips congratulated the participants for their commitment to national development by using their ideas to effect positive change in the country.

The competition will see Guyanese programmers competing at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre

(ACCC) to create technology solutions that can address socio-economic challenges in Guyana.



The launching of the Inaugural Innovation Challenge



GOVT EXPLORING LOCAL CULTIVATION OF WHEAT

As wheat prices peak at record high globally, His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali said his government is exploring the possibility of sourcing a variety of wheat for local production.

The surge in wheat and other commodity prices is a result of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. Both states account for about 30 percent of the world's traded wheat.

“Soon we are going to work to see whether we can find a variety of wheat that we can plant in Guyana, so

that we can fulfill even our local requirement. We are learning important lessons now that we must not leave unanswered for future generations,” President Ali said.

Speaking at the commissioning of a new well at Lusignan, East Coast Demerara on Tuesday, President Ali lamented that both the Covid-19 pandemic and the war have led to supply chain disruption, which has major economic implications.

The pandemic in some instances has increased the cost of



goods and services between 20 to 145 percent, while the cost of shipping and logistics has caused increases by as much as 200 percent.

The war in Ukraine then arose, taking out close to 40 percent of global wheat production. The price per bar-

rel of oil also surged. And if that was not enough, China with just an emergence of a few Covid cases, has gone into another lock down.

Notwithstanding these challenges, President Ali said the government is unwavering in its quest to

build a Guyana that is resilient, and a country that meets not only its national responsibility, but plays an important role in its global responsibility.

“We have started to present leadership on our next big crisis, food security...The world has thought us that we can no longer be dependent, we have to be as self-sufficient and self-sustainable as possible, especially when it comes to the supply of food and basic commodities,” the president noted.

He said citizens must understand the complexities of the environment under which the government is operating, acknowledging the fact that despite the many challenges, the administration has managed to maintain a country which boasts the best debt-to-Gross Domestic Product ratio.

The government has also been able to keep all its public servants employed, expand employment opportunities, provide increases in salaries and pension, and incentives to more students.

MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO CREATE JOBS FOR LINDENERS



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill MP inspecting a road project in Region Ten

With major infrastructural development ongoing in the mining town of Linden, Region 10, residents are expected to benefit from numerous job opportunities, as the need for local human resources will expand.

The Ministry of Public Works is undertaking billions of dollars in road works and other infrastructural projects in the region.

Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill said job creation is a priority on the government's agenda, and the new development plan will ensure this is realised.

“In our government layout of development, we are seeking that when works are being done in a region, materials and products, goods and services that could be provided from that region. The

money must be spent in that region and circulated; we are doing that all across the country. People that can be employed from that region must be employed. So, opportunities for employment are coming so Lindenians have to now be able to log in.”

The sum of \$6 billion was earmarked for the construction of the Linden-Mabura Hill Road. Upgrades to the 121 km gravel and asphaltic concrete road will transform the lives of persons living and doing business in the hinterland.

A further \$4.1 billion has also been budgeted for the construction of 32 bridges along the Kurupukari to Lethem corridor.

Additionally, works on the Wismar and Mackenzie waterfront development project are

expected to recommence soon.

The Hinterland and Urban Road Project is progressing, as work on phase two of the Mabura to Malali and Mabura to Muritaro roads has commenced.

The road in the Landersville, Kwakwani sub-district will also undergo additional development works, as it

Hururu will see major improvements as work on the internal road from that community to Wikki/Calcuni has also commenced.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd has encouraged residents to position themselves to tap into those opportunities.

The Minister, along



Chief Executive officer, GO-Invest, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop speaking with Region Ten residents

was severely damaged by the May/June flood last year.

“We are advancing the development programme so there is a pot of money that has been allocated for miscellaneous Urban and Hinterland roads nationally. So, every region will be seeing development and Linden will not be left out,” Minister Edghill added.

Meanwhile, the Amerindian reservation

with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, recently met with residents of the Numbers 47 and 58 Miles and Mabura Hill communities.

Minister Todd said the Linden-Mabura Hill Road will greatly benefit the communities and urged persons to organise themselves to take advantage of all that is anticipated.

In his discussion



The construction of the Linden-Mabura Hill Road

with residents, the Foreign Minister also spoke of President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali's leadership in the area of agriculture which will see increased production from farmers to meet the market demands of the Caribbean. He added that the government is expanding the agriculture sector, to realise its goal of becoming the bread basket of the Caribbean.

He also noted the initiatives implemented by government to meet the needs of residents, including the GOAL scholarship programme, enhanced social services, health care and the school cash grant.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ramsaroop, who accompanied the minister, encouraged the residents to maximise on opportunities that will generate wealth for themselves when the road project

gets underway. He further noted that there are several potential business opportunities that residents could capitalise on and urged them to start planning immediately.

Meanwhile, Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh also announced that the contract for the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) funded project will take place within the next month.

The road construction is one of the largest transport infrastructure projects government will be undertaking over the next three to four years. It is also the largest project the CDB has ever undertaken. The road also represents the first phase of a link that will eventually lead to Lethem, Region Nine, and neighbouring Brazil.

GOVT FORGES AHEAD WITH COMMITMENT TO REPAIR GLOBAL IMAGE



Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips at the inauguration ceremony of Chile's new President



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



H.E Jane Caroline Miller, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom calling on Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Todd MP

In keeping with its commitment to repair Guyana's image on the world stage, the Government of Guyana continues to meet with its international partners.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Hilton Todd, MP

for the Caribbean and the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, Dr Armstrong Alexis, Deputy Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Donna Forde, Assistant Secretary-General, Foreign

met with Her Excellency, Jane Caroline Miller, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Guyana, where he informed her of Guyana's recent submission of its Memorial on the Merits of its Case against Venezuela to the International Court of

acted with both President Boric and former President Pinera.

Members of the Guyanese Diaspora Group in the Netherlands were also updated as regards the Guyana's Development and investment opportunities by Minister within the Office

Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), where he commended the Government and People of Pakistan on behalf of President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali and the Government of Guyana, on the occasion of Pakistan's 75th Independence Anniversary.

The finance minister also reiterated to officials in attendance that concerted global action is now even more urgent to tackle the global problems being faced.

A Courtesy call was paid to Ambassador Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General, of the OAS by Ambassador Samuel Hinds, O.E concerning preparations for the Fifth Annual Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas.

In his remarks, Permanent Representative Samuel Hinds stated that the week offers the opportunity for Member States of the OAS to reflect on the history and often overlooked contri-

butions of Peoples of African Descent in this Hemisphere. Ambassador Hinds urged "let us continue working to bring an early end to the adverse legacy of slavery".

Ambassador Hinds handed over a monetary donation in the amount of US\$1,000 on behalf of the Government of Guyana, in commemoration of the Inter-American Week of People of African Descent and the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Ambassador Nestor Mendez expressed appreciation for Guyana's contribution towards the Inter-American Week for People of African Descent.

The government has classified the repairing of Guyana's Global image and improved international relations as a priority issue and has been inking many international collaborations with its regional and international partners.



Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy MP and members of the Guyanese diaspora in The Netherlands

spearheaded several fruitful engagements recently. The minister received courtesy calls from Ms. Alison Drayton, Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Sub-Regional Office

and Community Relations of the CARICOM Secretariat. During the meetings, he reaffirmed Guyana's continued support for CARICOM and regional integration. Minister Todd also

Justice (ICJ). Additionally, the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister met with Ms. Aida Araissi, Chief Executive Officer of the Bilateral Chamber of Commerce in Houston, Texas, who led a visiting delegation on a trade mission to explore business opportunities in various sectors, including aviation, ICT, health services and oil and gas.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), Mark Phillips and his wife, Mrs Mignon-Bowen Phillips, attended the inauguration ceremony of Chile's new President, His Excellency Gabriel Boric, where he inter-

of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy during his visit.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh also spoke at the 48th Meeting of the Council of Foreign



Ambassador Samuel Hinds, O.E Permanent Representative and Ambassador Nestor Mendez, Assistant Secretary General, of the OAS



The meeting with Aida Araissi, Chief Executive Officer of the Bilateral Chamber of Commerce in Houston, Texas

Celebrating Hol



As One Guyana



\$30M INFECTIOUS DISEASES CHEST CLINIC COMMISSIONED AT SUDDIE

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P, commissioned a \$30 million Infectious Diseases Chest Clinic at the Suddie Public hospital on Monday. The clinic will be utilised specifically to treat persons with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Tuberculosis (TB).

Dr. Anthony said healthcare workers will now have a better facility to treat patients suffering from these diseases. He reiterated the ministry's efforts in treating patients and also eliminating HIV from Guyana's population.

"As you know, with HIV there's a lot of things that we're doing to change how we treat with HIV patients, and so one of the things that we want to move to



The newly constructed Infectious Diseases Chest Clinic

is not just treating persons who are HIV positive but also those persons who are at high risks," he noted.

The minister said the ministry has also rolled out a comprehensive PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) programme across the country, which will allow persons who believe they have been exposed to HIV, to be treated.

"We have enough medication

to do PrEP and therefore, if we follow the protocol, then we'll be able to minimise persons getting the infection so as to become positive."

He reiterated that soon HIV self-testing kits would be introduced as another way of detecting the disease in its early stage.

In relation to TB, Dr. Anthony noted that, **"As you know with TB one of our biggest challenges**

has been making sure that people take their medication... and if we're going to help to cure these people then we have to make sure they take the medication on time," minister Anthony said.

He further noted that during the pandemic, healthcare workers were unable to go out in the communities to observe and ensure persons are taking their medica-

tion. **"So, we need to recover, we need to go back out, we need to find these patients and make sure they are on treatment,"** Dr. Anthony told health workers.

Additionally, \$100 million has been allocated to improve health facilities in Region Two. Dr. Anthony said x-ray services and intensive care at the Suddie Hospital will soon be improved.

Training opportunities for Community Health Workers (CHW) and nurses will also be made available in the region.

Parliamentary Representative for Region Two and Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Nigel Dharamlall, M.P, said developments in the health sector, partic-

ularly in the region, were made possible by the healthcare providers.

"You have seen progress in the delivery of health, and this couldn't happen without your profound support and more importantly with the way you dealt with all of the issues," he told health workers.

The minister also noted that, **"it makes no sense we have the physical and the tangible things and the people who are supposed to be the ones behind it are not optimally trained."**

Additionally, six TB patients and more than 100 HIV patients along with patients having other forms of infectious diseases will be treated at the new Chest Clinic.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER MEETS WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS REGARDING REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha MP greeting the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley

Minister of Agriculture Zulfikar Mustapha, along with a team of officials from the ministry participated in a series of meetings in Barbados, to discuss collaborations that will see more locally-made produce being made available in that country.

During the three-day visit, Minister Mu-

stapha met with Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, Minister of Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security, Indar Weir and other government and private sector officials, making way for the establishment of a food terminal that will bring about significant process improvements and cost efficiencies in

the importation and distribution of food supplied from Guyana to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, with the Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) playing a critical role as a consolidation point in Guyana.

Minister Mustapha also discussed the Black Belly Sheep initiative which will see Guyana and Barbados collaborating to rear the animals on a large

scale in Guyana with the hopes of reducing CARICOM's food import bill of mutton, lamb and other sheep meat products.

During his address to the "Opportunities for doing Business in Guyana" business dinner in Trinidad and Tobago, Minister Mustapha, highlighted several areas for investment in Guyana's agriculture sector including corn and soya

bean, agro-processing, aquaculture, as well as beef and poultry production.

He noted too, that in light of the increasing demand for food, there is a high potential for future growth in the down-stream components of the food value chain particularly processing, wholesaling, retailing and logistics.



Minister of Agriculture, Zulfikar Mustapha MP with members of the private sector at the business dinner in Trinidad and Tobago

GOV'T TO ESTABLISH POLICE ACADEMY TO TRAIN LOCAL AND REGIONAL OFFICERS

Government is working on the establishment of a police academy aimed at building the capacity of the Guyana Police Force (GPF). However, the intention of the academy is to not only provide training for local police men and women, but also those in the region.

President, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali made the revelation at the opening of the Annual Police Officers' Conference on Thursday. The President noted that discussions

are ongoing. **"We are in detailed discussions with many of our development partners in the developed world and in the developing world also on their experiences in this and we are pursuing a path on the development of a police academy,"** President Ali stated.

He said government will enhance the force's crime fighting capabilities to align them with international best practices



March pass by Ranks of the Guyana Police Force

and standards. For this, he noted that investments will be made for the professional development of ranks.

"A better trained force will be in a much stronger position to deliver the result which are

required... There can be no place for brute, force and ignorance in policing, it is also unacceptable for the police to be rude and ill-mannered to the public."

At present, several ranks are undertaking studies through government's Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) and at the University of Guyana.

Additionally, budget 2022 has allocated \$120 million towards training and

development of ranks. The training includes: train the trainers at \$5.7 million, safety and security management diplomas, \$9.8 million and strategic intelligence gathering at \$6.2 million.

There are also degree programmes in Public Management at \$19 million, a bridging course to qualify for the Advance Security Management Master's at \$16.9 million and \$10.8 million for training in cyber security.

LABOUR MINISTRY LAUNCHES ONLINE JOB BANK

Thousands of job seekers can now easily search and apply for job opportunities, following the official launch of the National Job Bank website, on March 11.

The programme, an initiative of the Ministry of Labour, will also enable employers to network with potential employees.

In brief remarks at the official launch, Minister, Joseph Hamilton said the initiative will address the country's unem-

ployment challenges.

"The Board of Industrial Training and CRMA [Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency] actually are twins here, because they have to work together and collaborate because it's not just the training, it is finding a medium to ensure that people can find a job and that is why this job bank is important to us and the nation as it develops," he said.

The minister noted

that the government is encouraging companies in the oil and gas sector to be key users of the facility.

There is no fee attached to the services. Moving forward, the ministry plans to partner with several employment agencies to increase persons' chances of finding employment.

"We are working on the registration form. We are seeking legal guidance in that regard, because we want all employment

agencies operating in this space to be registered and regulated by the Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency... we will not allow a free for all."

Minister Hamilton said any data used from the website by these employment entities will have to be credited to the ministry. "The job bank is also accessible in any location where internet service is available, whether locally or internationally. And



employers now have this valuable cost-free resource to list their vacancies to find suitable candidates to fill their vacant

positions," he said. Those interested can check out: <https://www.jobs.gov.gy/> for information.

HEALTH MINISTRY, HARVARD UNIVERSITY CONDUCTING "CUTTING EDGE" STUDY ON MALARIA PARASITES

The Ministry of Health has partnered with the University of Harvard, to carry out studies of the malaria parasite, to detect changes that may cause drug resistance, the findings of which, could contribute to global studies.

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony said Guyana could become one of the top centers once the project is successful. The study will use pioneering technology and techniques to sequence the malaria parasite and check for gene alterations that are common with resistance to medications.



"Some of these parasites would develop resistance towards the treatment that is currently available, so we have seen that globally and when that happens the current medication is not going to work properly and therefore, when people get sick

with malaria, if we are using the same treatment protocol, they would have challenges in getting better," Dr. Anthony explained.

He related that officials at the National Public Health Reference Lab have been trained in gene sequencing at Harvard University, while

a gene sequencing machine has been acquired.

"Once we do the sequencing locally, the data that we collect, we would be assisted by the Harvard team to interpret the data so it's a collaboration, we do part of the work, they will help us with the

analytics, so it is a good collaboration because it allows our staff to learn new techniques and some of these are really cutting-edge technology that we are using and techniques that we are using," Dr. Anthony said.

While the focus is on malaria, the same technique and equipment could be used for gene sequencing for the Covid-19 virus. Minister Anthony said this could be done locally by the end of this year.

Another collaboration, this time with the Oxford University, will see the use of 'in-

novative' techniques in Region Nine, to control malaria there.

The Ministry of Health has, in the last year, been distributing impregnated bed nets in the various hinterland communities, along with hammocks and nets in mining areas.

The health minister said there are 15,000 to 18,000 reported cases of malaria every year.

He is hoping that the distribution of bed nets, which has been very effective in other parts of the world like Africa, will see results in reducing the mosquito population and infection.

ROAD NETWORKS IN NO. 76, 77 VILLAGES COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The rehabilitation of the road networks in Number 76 and Number 77 villages, Corentyne, Berbice (Region Six) which had a timeline of June 30, have been completed ahead of schedule.

This was recently confirmed by Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill M.P.

At Number 77 Village, 3,140 metres of road was rehabilitated by Rajendra Ramcharitar Contracting Enterprise, while 5,005 metres was completed in Number 76 village by Associated Contracting Service. The two projects cost \$170 million and \$268 mil-



lion respectively.

In January, Minister Edghill visited the two communities to inspect and get feedback from residents.

Roland Wright of Number 76 Village, said he is pleased with the quality of work since the roads were in

a deplorable condition for over 12 years.

“Before it was like this, it was terrible, because was bare potholes and it was not easy holes, it was terrible holes. I am a tailor in the area, so every time the people come to me, they

would say tailor, I will not be able to come in back because the road bad... but right now how the government is doing the road here it is wonderful,” Wright explained.

Bibi Ali of Number 77 village expressed similar sentiments. Ali

detailed that, “it was so bad that the taxis did not want to bring you in, so if you do not have your personal transportation is either you left to die but this here now is more than what we asked for and I am very thankful for this.”

Minister Edghill at the time of his visit said the upgrades in the communities were a commitment being fulfilled by government.

“In the run up to the 2020 elections, I walked all these streets knocked on your doors and asked you for your vote. So, I am happy that we are

in government and I have come back now to see how you are benefitting from your government working for you.”

The works are roll-over projects from the 2021 budget. Budget 2022 has allotted \$15.2 billion for miscellaneous roads, \$7.2 billion more than the previous year’s allocation which saw over 450 roads constructed or rehabilitated in 2021.

Already, invitation for bids have been published in the daily newspapers for works in Regions Two, Three, Four, Five and Six.

PHASE ONE OF \$147M LIMA SANDS ACCESS ROAD ALMOST COMPLETED

Phase one of the Lima Sands access road, Region Two should be wrapped up in a couple of weeks said Public Works Minister, Bishop Juan Edghill, M.P. The \$147 million project which spans 900 metres began last November and has a May 2022 deadline.

to be able to get it approved to go to the next stage of getting the aggregates placed and them putting on the asphaltic concrete. This should be wrapped up in a couple of weeks and across the region there will be several projects

1,000 metres of roads being upgraded.

Additionally, the region can expect massive infrastructural development with the upgrading of miscellaneous and urban roads.

“We have earmarked to spend in Region Two about \$1 billion in urban and miscellaneous roads and that is a part and separate from what the Regional Democratic Council, through their regional works programme will be executing. This is what the Ministry of Public Works will be undertaking.”

Budget 2022 has allocated \$90 million to improve accessibility with the construction of several roads. Some of the roads to be upgraded include David James Street in Charity, Damon Street in Dartmouth, Second Cross Street in Anna Regina Housing Scheme and Market Street in Suddie Housing Scheme.

and many have already been advertised and there are many more to come on stream. So, the people of Region Two can expect significant improvements in terms of roads.”

Minister Edghill said phase two of the project will commence this year and will see

GOV'T TO SPEND CLOSE TO \$600M TO REHABILITATE NAAMRYCK, HUBU ACCESS ROADS

Government will be expending close to \$600 million to rehabilitate

The Naamryck and Hubu main access roads in Essequibo Islands-West Demerara (Region Three) will be undergoing rehabilitation that will cost government close to \$600M.

This was revealed by Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar, M.P, following inspections in the communities.

Minister Indar said the upgrades which will modernise the communities’ infrastructure are in keeping with the government’s vision.

“At Naamaryck, the road is in a dilapidated state and so we went and inspected it. The residents in the area have been requesting for this to get done last year. We have put monies in the budget this year and it is going out to tender.”

He explained that



Minister within Ministry of Public Work, Deodat Indar, MP speaking with farmers and residents of Naamryck

the ministry will carry out emergency works on the road to provide immediate relief to residents.

“The road is slushy as water is on the road and residents cannot move in and out easily,” Minister Indar stated.

He said the main road from Parika to Hubu on to Three Door Koker, is in a similar condition.

“We (government) picked up the bill of quality and we went out to tender and it has been awarded. We should have mobilisation here between one to two weeks where two contractors

have been awarded different sections of the road to do it simultaneously.”

Residents of Hubu have asked that a warning be given to truck drivers whose daily use has caused the road to deteriorate. Minister Indar said the drivers must be held accountable for their actions.

“You, as the residents need to hold these truck drivers accountable because we expect you to care the road when we fix it.”

The residents also took the opportunity to raise several issues relating to healthcare, education and agricultural services, among others.



Minister of Public Works, Bishop Juan Edghill MP inspecting the Lima Sands access road

Minister Edghill inspected the project which was awarded to S. Jagmohan Construction and General Supplies Inc. and was pleased to announced that the concrete drains have been completed.

He said, **“We are at the stage where they are testing the sand and loam**

ANNA REGINA TO GET MODERN HOSPITAL



Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony MP and other officials during the site visit

Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony, MP recently visited the site for the construction of a new hospital in Anna Regina, Region Two.

The modern hospital

is part of a series to be constructed by the government this year at Anna Regina, Tuschen, Diamond, Enmore, Bath and No. 75 Village, Corentyne.

Minister Anthony

said the hospital will provide inpatient and outpatient services to boost healthcare in the Pomeroun-Supenaam region.

“The new hospital will have about 75

inpatient beds. It will have a modern accident and emergency, it will have modern laboratories, it will also have an imaging suite and that will include not just digital x-rays, but CT scans. It will have two modern operating theatres and a small minor theatre,” Dr. Anthony said, when he visited the construction site.

He said the site was chosen based on the ‘population centre,’ as citizens in the area will have easy access to the facility.

Dr. Anthony said, **“in the next couple**

of months, hopefully, we’ll be able to start work here and I think it will be a good development for the coast.”

He said health facilities across the country will be retrofitted to provide better accommodation for patients. The government will also be working to ensure adequate medical equipment are available and a new electronic medical record system is in place to provide better service to citizens.

Meanwhile, speaking at the opening ceremony of the new Infectious Diseases Chest Clinic at the Suddie Public Hospi-

tal, the health minister said construction will begin this year for the new state-of-the-art paediatric and maternal hospital in the region.

“We are also going to be building a modern paediatric, a women and children hospital, and again this is going to be a sub-specialty hospital where if you have children with oncological issues, they would be able to go there and get care.”

This hospital will provide a number of services such as paediatric cardiac surgery.

SEVERAL FERRIES SET FOR REHABILITATION

Government is taking steps to improve ferry services with the docking and rehabilitation of several vessels. Invitation for bids have since been issued in the local newspapers by the Ministry of Public Works’ Maritime Administration Department.

Vessels to be rehabilitated include the M.L David P at \$19.5 million, M.L Thomp-

son at \$24.9 million, Barge Seamang at \$149.8 million and Split Barge at \$49.6 million.

The sums listed are the engineer’s estimate which amounts to \$243.8 million. However, the sum allotted in budget 2022 for the works is \$270 million.

Since taking office, government has made a conscious effort to improve services being

offered to Guyanese.

This can be seen as government has invested in repairs to the MV Kimbia and MV Barima which service Region One.

In addition, government has invested \$2.5 billion through a line of credit from the Government of India. The 70 metre-long, 14.5-metre-wide vessel is twice the size of the MV Kimbia and MV Barima.

The new vessel has the capacity to transport 274 passengers, 10 cars, four trucks, 10 (10 ft) size containers of cargo at 14 knots per hour, cutting the usual travel time by half and is expected to be in Guyana by October.

Further, government is currently undertaking emergency repairs to the M.V. Canawaima that plies the Guyana and Suriname route.



OVER 2,000 POMEROON RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM REFURBISHED DENTAL BOAT

The ‘Lady Janet’, a dental boat was recommissioned by Health Minister, Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P, after being out of service for six years. The boat is expected to provide service for more than 2,000 residents in the Upper and Lower Pomeroun areas.

Some \$2.8 million was expended by the ministry to refurbish the dental boat.

Senior Dental Surgeon for Region Two, Sabriea Harrychan said she intends to focus more on providing dental care to school children. She is confident that the



The Lady Janet dental boat

region will have better services, especially in the area of dentistry.

“We’re happy for the input of what they have started. I can tell you what they have started here under my supervision being the Senior Dental Surgeon

in this Region it will not go in vain, but there will be prosperity and upward movement in the field where dentistry is concerned,” she said.

The fully equipped boat will be providing services such as oral

examination, cleaning, filling, oral health education and extraction.

Harrychan said the boat will be operating out of the region on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health,

Health] services, maybe general medical clinics.”

The health minister also noted that this additional service will boost dental care in the region as it will reach persons living in far flung areas.

Also present at the simple ribbon-cutting ceremony at Charity Waterfront were Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Nigel Dharamlall M.P, and other Senior Officers from the Ministry of Health and the Regional Democratic Council of Region Two.

Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P, said **“It’s first going to function as a dental boat because that’s what it was built to do. We think we can add additional services such as MCH [Maternal and Child**

INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE AT CITY MARKETS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) is taking steps to increase its presence in the city's markets, collaborating with the Mayor and City Council (M&CC) as part of its 'safer markets initiative.'

The move forms part of government's manifesto promises of ensuring less crime and safer communities.

The move comes on the heels of a meeting on Tuesday between Deputy Commissioner 'Operations' (ag) Clifton Hicken, Deputy Commissioner 'Administration' (ag) Calvin Brutus, Mayor of Georgetown Pandit Ubraj Narine and other representatives from the GPF and M&CC.



Police Commander of 4 A Division, Assistant Commissioner Simon McBean leading a team in the Stabroek Market

In a release the police said it conducted a walkabout in the Stabroek Market on Wednesday to "map out strategies for collaboration and policing in and around the public thoroughfares."

Leading the exercise were Police Commander of 4 A Division Assistant Commissioner Simon McBean and M&CC's Chief Constable (ag) Virjanand Gafur.

The release stated

that "the GPF will immediately provide resources to the City Council to have visible police presence in the areas and will continue further collaborative efforts to enhance public safety."

It said too, that Commander McBean will meet with the M&CC team weekly, fortnightly and monthly to further discuss the challenges and improvements that need to be implemented.

In the same release, Deputy Commissioner 'Operations' (ag) Hicken said the aim of the initiative is to prevent crime taking place in the city markets.

Commissioner of Police (ag) Nigel Hopie at the opening of the Annual Police Officers Conference said in 2021, there was an 18.8 percent decrease in serious crimes. He said the reduction is testament to the significant work that is ongoing by ranks of the police force. Additionally, he said from January 1, 2022 to March 8, 2022, there has been a 16 percent decrease in serious crimes compared to the same period in 2021.

GUYANA'S LAWS BEING REVIEWED, CONSOLIDATED



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



The Government of Guyana has begun the process of consolidating and revising all the country's laws, in keeping with its promise of overhauling and modernising the legislative landscape.

A press release from the Attorney General's Chambers on Saturday March 19, 2022, states that the exercise is a collaboration between the 'Law Revision Commission' unit of the AG's Chambers, the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Improved access to

Justice in the Caribbean (IMPACT Justice) Project and will be executed by the Regional Revision Centre Inc., an Anguillan company.

"Honourable Mohabir Anil Nandlall SC, MP, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, is of the view that this consolidation and revision process, taken together with several other transformative initiatives currently underway,

will deliver on a manifesto promise to modernise legislative landscape," the release states.

The last such exercise was done in 2012 and according to the release, **"That process took place nearly 12 years ago, and a plethora of new laws have been promulgated since."**

Therefore, incorporating them into legislation, and consolidating them have become necessary, the release added as

the **"time is ripe for a new volume of the Laws of Guyana which is current, comprehensive, and accurate."**

Importantly, the process will also rectify 'several deficiencies' which 'afflicted' the last revision exercise, the release stated further.

To help facilitate the process, electronic and printed copies of the last revised Laws of Guyana (2012), a copy of the Consolidated Index of the Laws of Guyana for

the revision periods 2009, 2010 and 2021, and the Gazette publications of the Laws of Guyana for the revision period December 31,2010 to December 31,2021 will be supplied to the Regional Law Revision Centre.

"Access to justice requires access by the people of Guyana to the laws which affect their daily lives. As such, in keeping with current policy, the 2022 Revised Edition of the Laws of Guyana will be

made available on the website of the Attorney General's Chambers, and physical copies will be made available to key stakeholders," the release states.

The exercise commenced on February 21,2022 and is expected to conclude on February 20,2023.



2022 - REINVIGORATING GUYANA'S INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE

The Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest) has updated and reinforced the Sector Investment Prospectus for the year 2022. The readjustment was done in collaboration with various ministries and supporting agencies.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Peter Ramsaroop said the updated Investment Prospectus focuses on agriculture, energy, mining, information and communications technology (ICT), tourism, manufacturing and services.

“Enclosed in the prospectus is the attractive fiscal incentive regime that investors can benefit from throughout the various sectors, as well as data on the key sectors, sector overviews, the economy, why invest and comparative advantages,” the CEO said.

He said the \$552 billion 2022 budget



lays the foundation for massive infrastructure developments while at the same time developing sustainable industries such as energy, agriculture and tourism.

The CEO highlighted that government is already making bold steps in addressing food security in an effort to reduce the food import bill on CARICOM by 25 percent by 2025.

President, Dr.

Mohamed Irfaan Ali at a recent press conference said 25,000 acres of land will be made available in Guyana for farming by local and regional investors.

The prospectus was also adjusted based on the country's projected growth by the World Bank of 49.7 percent in 2022. This, the CEO said, is coupled with the efforts to expand trade with regional partners and expand the “El

Dorado corridor” with Suriname and Northern Brazil.

He alluded to the Corentyne River Bridge that will link Guyana and Suriname, and which is slated to commence this year, in addition to plans to develop the Linden to Lethem Road. What is important to note is that government has gotten approval from the Caribbean Development Bank for the construction of the

road from Linden to Mabura.

Also opening bilateral trade, the CEO pointed out will be the development of the Deep-Water Harbour in Berbice and the development of two new shore bases on the west side of the Demerara River.

Additionally, Dr. Ramsaroop stated that government is heavily investing to achieve its target of reducing energy cost by 50 per-

cent. This will be done through an energy mix of hydro, solar and wind.

The Amaila Falls Hydropower project is set to come on stream. Further, \$20.8 billion has been allocated in budget 2022 to develop the gas to shore project at Wales which will generate about 300 megawatts of clean energy.

“Guyana is open for investment, but the outlook is far beyond oil and gas. Our low-carbon development strategy, natural beauty, and the value of our forests and human resources existed long before the discovery of oil.”

Dr. Ramsaroop stated that tremendous opportunities are already being sought in agriculture, tourism, the new Silica city, infrastructure, manufacturing, industrial development and agro processing.

SCHOOLS TO BE FULLY REOPENED ON APRIL 25

Schools in Guyana will be fully reopened on April 25.

Minister of Education, Priya Manickchand MP said all systems are being put in place to reopen schools to address the two years of learning loss.

“Some skills that were acquired will be lost and forgotten and you might even have the phenomena of drop outs presenting itself in larger numbers than we have ever seen before and we are seeing indications of all of those things so are we ready... We are making sure of course that schools are ready to be reopened fully from April 25th after the



Easter holiday.”

To ensure teachers and students are prepared for the new term, the ministry has implemented a staggered system which will see students revisiting studies from their previous grade

within a 20-week period, before moving on to the new term's curriculum.

Additionally, the ministry is working to ensure that every school is equipped with the necessary tools and equipment

to be fully functional before the new term commences.

The minister also announced a new programme that will be rolled out nationally to target literacy loss in the four core subjects.

“You're going

to see an assault on illiteracy, you will see an entire national programme rolled out to recover from the literacy loss we would have had and all the gains we would have made

that went down the drain in two years. Every single student is going to be diagnosed, we are issuing a diagnostic for Mathematics, English, Social Studies and Science - the four cores. Every student will be diagnosed and each student will be attended to individually to make sure that we recover from the covid loss.”

The education ministry announced the closure of schools back in March 2020, following the onset of the deadly Coronavirus.

Minister Manickchand said the pandemic provided the ministry with the opportunity to review its literacy programme.

GUYANESE WOMEN LEADING IN CLIMATE ACTION, ADVOCACY

Women in Guyana are leading in climate action and advocacy, while dominating agricultural subsectors and expanding the low carbon eco-tourism sector, Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.P., said.

She was at the time delivering remarks on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), at the 63rd General Discussion on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Minister said the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) has significantly benefitted women through micro and small enterprises. Finances procured under the LCDS, have also been used to bridge the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) di-

vide, by offering connectivity and related tools. This, she said, is ensuring women and girls are provided access to government services, education



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, MP, representing CARICOM, at 63rd General Discussion on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

and information.

Under the theme, **'Achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes: advancing gender equality through**

holistic and integrated actions from global to local' Minister Persaud said Guyana is ensuring the participation of women and girls in

the areas highlighted. **"Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, which seeks to transform the economy while combating climate change, promotes the inclusion of women and vulnerable groups in key economic sectors. Since the**

strategy's launch in 2009, women have benefitted significantly, including through micro, small enterprise and entrepreneur-

ial projects and job opportunities. 62 per cent of the Low Carbon cash grants were awarded to women, who were trained in climate smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, photography and business development," she told the assembly.

She also spoke of

the successful free non-traditional technical and vocational programmes offered with no pre-admission requirements, to ensure thousands receive the necessary training and skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

Meanwhile, Dr. Persaud called for more women to engage in climate change discussions and decision making at the regional and international levels.

She said Caribbean countries understand the integral role women play in policy development and risk reduction.

"For our part, CARICOM member states recognise that women's full and effective participation in climate action and disaster risk reduction is critical.

Our governments are continuing to mainstream gender into development policy, bud-

gets and planning, as well as national adaptation plans and disaster resilience strategies," she told the assembly.

She echoed the commitment of CARICOM to create an environment conducive to women's development.

"Our global achievement of gender equality in the context of climate change is heavily reliant on each country's commitment and genuine desire to mitigate the devastating impact of climate change globally."

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an inter-governmental body solely dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment.

ATHLETICS ACADEMY LAUNCHED

In an effort to transform the sports sector and amplify young talents, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, through the National Sports Commission (NSC), launched an Athletics Sport Academy.

The academy will place emphasis on track and field, and will target youths between the ages of six to sixteen from various districts across the country.

At the launch held at the Leonora Track and Field Ground, Region Three, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Charles Ramson, M.P., said the initiative will streamline young talents to compete internationally.

"Sports need to

aggressively transform; it needs to aggressively transform because we have a lot of talent in the country. It has the potential for taking young people to the level of being internationally competitive."

Additionally, the ministry has committed to recommence the Aliann Pompey sports meet, to ensure youths are provided the opportunity to enhance their talent. The meet is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It captures the timings of an athlete, which qualifies them to attend the Olympics. The local competition will be hosted annually, while

other tournaments and meets will occur regularly.

Minister Ramson encouraged the youths to work hard to attain their goals in sport, noting that local competition is important.

"That is pretty important because if you have a local meet where you can participate and compete in, all of you will now have the chance to get to that point."

Meanwhile, representative of the Athletics Sport Academy, Cristy Campbell, encouraged the first batch of athletes to do their best to achieve their goals.

"I would like to congratulate the very first athletics of the ath-



Athletes exercising

letics academy. Your only job is to show up and train and it puts you in a position to transition to the elite programme which is also part of this academy ... so I am wishing

you good luck going forward. I hope you stay focused and just keep training hard."

Within the last few months, the ministry, through the NSC, launched five acad-

emies in a phased manner of the 12 sporting activities. They include football, squash, badminton and table tennis.

EDUCATION MINISTRY ADVANCES CONVERSATION ON HAIRSTYLE POLICY

Following the relaxation of the hairstyle rules in observance of International Women's Day on March 8, the Ministry of Education is advancing the conversation by soliciting the views of stakeholders with the launching of an online survey.

On its official Facebook page, the ministry, invited

teachers, and students have commended the government's initiative to openly consult with the individuals who are directly affected by these rules.

Sixth form student of Queen's College, Jessica Hackett believes that, "They [government] is taking a good initiative in actually seeking responses from not



Jessica Hackett Queen's College student

stakeholders to participate in the survey to record their opinions on hairstyle policies that individual schools have embraced.

One of the hairstyle rules at a Georgetown school states that "female students are required to comb their hair away from their

only teachers and parents, but students, since it is the students who are mostly affected by these rules. It shows the ministry's interest in carrying out the necessary consultation needed, as it relates to the implementation of new rules," she expressed.



Carmalita Byrne St. Joseph High School Student

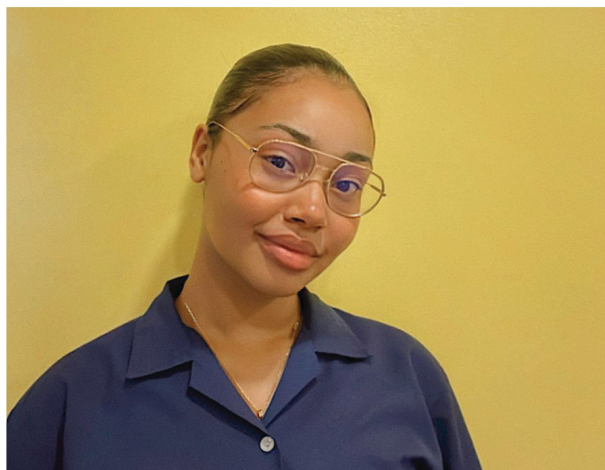
faces [and] contained in one or two pony-tails."

Male students are not exempt from these policies, with one rule stating that they must "have one level cut around the entire head."

Parents, guardians,

Student of the St Joseph High School, Carmalita Byrne, highlighted that, not only is consultation key, but the method.

"There are situations that are happening right in front of you or to you and there is nothing you can



Jade Atwell Marian Academy Student

do or say about it, many times because you are a student... therefore, to get the views of those affected in a private manner, for those who may be afraid to speak out, [these] surveys are the most preferable," she shared.

Jade Atwell of the Marian Academy said this approach shows great leadership by the ministry.



Crystal Andrews Parent

"Decision making without consultation with those affected is the epitome of poor leadership, and too often we see this situation occur in our everyday lives...I commend the ministry of education for allowing all stakeholders affected by the situation in regards to hairstyles at school to be heard," the student noted.

DPI also spoke to parents and guardians who commended the move.

Crystal Andrews said, "I think that the survey is the first step towards something much bigger...I love

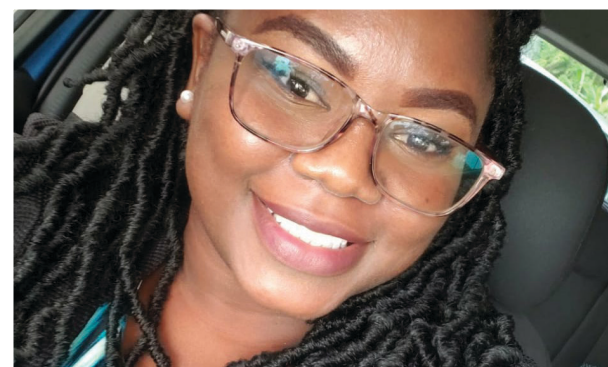
the fact that the ministry is putting actions in place toward making a change and not just feeding us with empty promises."

Mother of one, Eulita Browne-Phillips, also highlighted the importance of having parents involved in the process.

"I think that it is a good move that the ministry is making to consult about this

whole hair [concern], because as a parent...I am very happy that they are consulting with the public [about] it," she explained.

Ackeeni Bentinck Kingston, a teacher of St. Joseph High School noted that, "It

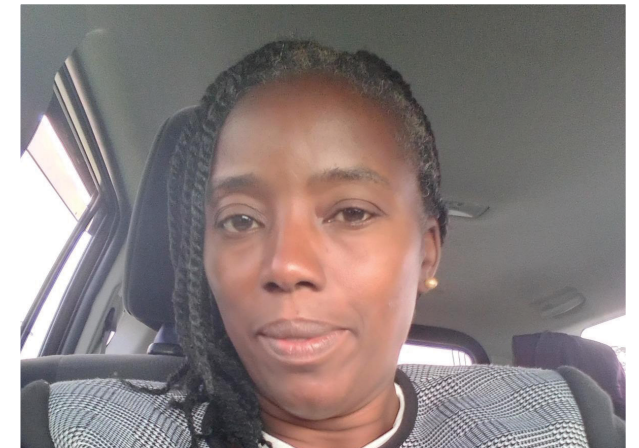


Ackeeni Bentinck-Kingston St. Joseph High School Teacher

is very important to hear the students' side of the story because they are the ones that will be most affected by the change in school rule...in most cases, the adults take the forefront of these

the end of the day, we are the ones that have to teach these children," she said.

Physical Education teacher, Nima Flue-Bess also acknowledged the positivity in consulting with the



Nima Flue-Bess St. Joseph High School Teacher

decisions without thinking about the impact of the decision on the people who are actually involved...so this process is needed."

Another teacher, Diane Ramnauth explained that it is positive to have teachers involved in the

relevant stakeholders on this matter.

"They should allow it to be heard...I think they should meet with these parents or children in a...formal setting," she noted.

Minister, Priya Manickchand, M.P hosted a Parent Teacher Association (PTA)



Diane Ramnauth Teacher

consultative process, for several reasons.

"I believe teachers should be involved and it's a good initiative to involve the teachers because, at

meeting at the Den Amstel Primary school in Region Three.

Stemming from the feedback received on the relaxation of the policy on IWD, the ministry said that it has heard the concerns and is opening the door for opinions and thoughts to be shared on how the ministry should deal with the matter.

This is in keeping with this administration's mandate of inclusive decision and policymaking.

FIRST HARVEST!

The first harvest from the shade houses at NAREI as part of President Irfaan Ali's Youth Agriculture and Innovation Entrepreneurship Programme.

The flagship initiative targets the stimulation and promotion of significant economic growth in the lives of young agriculturists.

The massive project covered the construction of 25 shade houses and the cultivation of three high value crops; carrot, broccoli and cauliflower with former and current students of the University of Guyana (UG), the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA), and other budding agriculture entrepreneurs.



MASSIVE TRANSFORMATIONAL DEVELOPMENT' FOR PUBLIC SERVICE OF GUYANA

As the Ministry of Public Service continues to effectively train public servants, a massive virtual capacity development workshop on the digitisation of the public sector was held in collaboration with key representatives from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

The workshop directed its focus on promoting innovation and digital governance, as the world continues to depend on technological advancement.

In line with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Guyana is working to ensure that by 2030, there is a significant increase in "the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data".

Advisor to the Minister of Public Service, Dr Jennifer Westford, M.P, in her feature address to the virtual forum, said government remains committed to ensuring Guyana is kept abreast with every global advancement.

"At this level of government, I can confirm that there is a strong commitment to propel Guyana into the digital age, especially since technological advancement seems to be coming at a fast pace," she said.

The Member of Parliament and former Minister of Public Service said the workshop is just the commencement of massive transformation that will be seen in the public service in coming years.

"It is the government's hope that this

forum will help us to craft a national road map for change and kickstart the process of awareness for our people, beginning with the administration of our staff and the public sector," Dr Westford affirmed.

In her budget presentation during the Budget 2022 debates, Minister of Public Service Sonia Parag, M.P, explained that the Training Division of the ministry will receive a new breath of life.

"We intend to breathe some life into that critical department and ensure that the programs offered are impactful and worthy of the time people spend taking them to ensure a result-oriented public service," the minister said.



Advisor to the Minister of Public Service, Dr Jennifer Westford, MP

SEVERAL STATE VISITS TO GUYANA EXPECTED THIS YEAR



President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo arriving in Guyana for the International Energy Conference and Expo back in February

The expansion of requests for state visits to the oil and gas producing nation. This was disclosed by President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali as he addressed the Annual Police Officers' Conference. **"This year alone we have more than five requests for state visits before the end of the year,**

we have more than four international forums and expos that want to come to Guyana. We have the FAO Caribbean and Latin America Heads of Government that is coming to Guyana in 2024," the President stated.

President Ali said Guyana is hosting more international forums, alluding to the successful hosting of the Energy Conference and Expo. The conference featured more than 600 par-

ticipants, along with President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi and Prime Min-

ister of Barbados, Mia Mottley. ExxonMobil's Chairman & CEO, Mr. Darren Woods was also present.



Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley with residents of Lethem, Region Nine

NEW 'KAIETOUR' APP TO CREATE GLOBAL VISIBILITY FOR GUYANA'S TOURISM PRODUCTS



A section of the gathering at the launch of the "Kaietour App"

Tourism businesses in Guyana will benefit from the "Kaietour" app which will make it easier for clients to search, find, book, and pay for services in Guyana.

The app, which was officially launched, at Herdmanston Lodge

was given the 'thumbs up' by Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Oneidge Walrond, M.P, who spoke of the many initiatives being offered by the government to foster development in the tourism sector.

Minister Walrond

noted that along with investments, it will take a collaborative approach to achieve success in the industry.

"I want us to continue to sell and promote market Guyana, and it's not by chance that

you are seeing a clean-up campaign and you see different walkways and restoration works being done around the city, it is all with a view of developing this brand, this 'one Guyana', a Guyana that we can be proud of," the Tourism Minister encouraged.

Founder and CEO of Kaietour, Salaudeen Nausrudeen said his Guyana-Centric Global Booking app which is a robust and thorough digital platform, would place Guyana's unique and rich tourism product online for



Salaudeen Nausrudeen, Founder and CEO of Kaietour

global exposure and global marketing.

"It's definitely going to be a game changer in Guyana's tourism manifestation."

Nausrudeen believes that the local tour operators were at a disadvantage with

regards their visibility to the world. He said local tourism businesses can download the app and get registered for free.

The global booking application costs US\$16 million to create.

REWA ECO-LODGE SECURES SECOND PLACE AT INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



The Rewa-eco lodge located in the North Rupununi, Region Nine has won second place out of 100 countries in the 'Communities & Cul-

ture' category of the 2022 Green Destinations Story awards.

The award ceremony was held virtually on March 11 2022.

A release from

the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) states that the 'Communities & Culture' category of the award, not only acknowledges local life, culture and traditions,

but also addresses the negative impact of tourism on the local communities.

The GTA said while not surprised by the award, it was more

than pleased by the honor bestowed on the local company.

"Through the support of the GTA, Rewa Eco-Lodge presented a detailed conservation story on the Arapaima species and the sustainable steps that they have implemented to mitigate the challenges faced by the community."

GTA's acting Director, Kamrul Baksh, in the statement noted that, "It is certainly remarkable, although

not quite surprising that Rewa Eco-Lodge has been awarded such a prestigious recognition. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Green Destinations for working with us to make this a reality."

He said the agency will continue to work with the community-led and owned tourism enterprises in the journey for sustainable tourism development.



Guyanese DIASPORA WEEKLY



Keeping the Diaspora Informed

EDITION 13

World-famous yoga and spiritual master, Sadhguru and Trinidadian Soca Artiste and yogi, Machel Montano visit the majestic Kaieteur Falls.girls.”

