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HEALTH Record

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Government breaks ground for state-of-the-art West Demerara Regional Hospital

The Government of Guyana has taken a major step toward transforming the country's healthcare sector, with the official sod-turning ceremony for the highly anticipated West Demerara Regional Hospital, in Region Three (West Demerara-Essequibo Islands). His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, and Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, Minister of Health, led the event, marking the beginning of a project that promises to revolutionise medical services in the region.

The hospital, fully funded by the Government of Guyana, will be constructed by CAMCE Sinopharm International Consortium, a globally recognised leader in infrastructure development, at Vreed-en-Hoop, West Coast Demerara.

With cutting-edge medical technology and specialised departments, this state-of-the-art facility will provide comprehensive healthcare services, advanced diagnostics and specialised treatments, ensuring that residents of Region Three and surrounding areas have access to world-class medical care.

Speaking at the event, President Ali reaffirmed his Administration's commitment to expanding and modernising healthcare services across the country. He emphasised that this investment aligns with the government's vision of ensuring equitable access to high-quality healthcare, regardless of location.

Minister of Health, Dr Frank Anthony echoed similar sentiments, highlighting that the new hospital will feature modern operating theaters, intensive care units and specialised medical departments. He said this will significantly reduce the need for patients to travel to Georgetown for critical



His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, and other officials turning the sod of the new West Demerara Regional Hospital, at Vreed-en-Hoop, West Coast Demerara.

care, providing timely and efficient medical services closer to home.

“This hospital is part of President Ali’s vision for a world-class healthcare system in Guyana. We are currently advancing the construction of six new regional hospitals, all set for completion later this year, further reinforcing our commitment to modernized healthcare infrastructure,” Dr Anthony said.

Beyond improving healthcare delivery, the West Demerara Regional Hospital will also serve as a hub for medical training and employment, creating new opportunities for doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals

in the region. This initiative is expected to strengthen the local healthcare workforce and contribute to the country’s long-term medical sustainability.

With construction set to begin soon, the hospital is expected to be completed in 2028. Government has reassured citizens that this project is part of a broader national initiative, which includes upgrading multiple regional hospitals and introducing new medical facilities nationwide.

The establishment of the West Demerara Regional Hospital represents a landmark achievement in Guyana’s journey toward a stronger, more resilient healthcare system.



Minister of Health Honourable, Dr Frank Anthony, delivering remarks to scores of people at the sod turning ceremony.

\$121B approved to strengthen Guyana's healthcare delivery

The health sector is set for major transformation this year, following the recent approval of \$121 billion by the Parliamentary Committee of Supply.

During the consideration of the Ministry of Health's budget estimates in the National Assembly, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, highlighted the Government's commitment to building a world-class healthcare system.

construction, will be fully operational by year-end, improving access to quality healthcare.

He informed the house that construction of hospitals at Diamond, East Bank Demerara; Enmore, East Coast Demerara; and Bath, West Coast Berbice are about 90-95 per cent complete, while hospitals at Number 75 Village, Corentyne, Berbice; De Kinderen, West Coast Demerara; and Lima, Essequibo Coast are 85-90 per cent complete.

Over \$606 million will be spent on renting buildings to accommodate medical and technical personnel.

A further \$800 million is allocated to construct a new health centre in Campbellville, Georgetown which will serve residents there, as well as in nearby Kitty.

Strengthening Human Resources

Minister Anthony said the government remains committed to prioritising the expansion of training to boost human resource capacity, adding that about 3,000 persons are currently being trained in various programmes.

Another 805 individuals will graduate from the nursing assistant programme this year, while approximately 1,000 nurses, who



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, speaks during the consideration of estimates and expenditures in Parliament.

Of the total allocation, \$83.6 billion is earmarked for regional and clinical services. Minister Anthony confirmed that all six regional hospitals, currently under

began training two years ago, are expected to graduate in 2026.

Plans are in place to train 3,000 more individuals for employment in the health sector.

Communicable Disease Control

A total of \$7.9 billion has been approved to combat communicable diseases nationwide. Of this amount, \$125 million will be used for additional training of Community Health Workers (CHWs) and other professionals. A breakdown of specific allocations includes: \$28 million for HIV training; \$15 million for malaria management; \$12.5 million for tuberculosis training; and \$10 million for dengue and rapid test kit training.

The Minister also announced plans to provide influenza vaccines to healthcare workers and the elderly to protect vulnerable groups during the flu season.

Family, Primary Healthcare Services

Of the \$4.5 billion allocated for family and primary healthcare services, \$65 million will go towards maintaining medical equipment at health facilities. The Ministry of Health has also expanded cold storage facilities for vaccines countrywide. An additional \$135 million will fund training in women's health, vaccinations, mental health and school health programmes.

Advancing Health Sciences Education

The Health Sciences Education Department will receive \$3.1 billion this year. A sum of \$60 million was allocated for drugs and medical supplies for simulation centres; \$44 million for purchasing mannequins to enhance hands-on learning, and over \$1 billion for nursing schools and dormitories. Another \$2 billion was approved to enhance disability and rehabilitation services and \$9.5 billion to manage non-communicable diseases in the country.

\$43M mammogram machine commissioned at Linden Hospital Complex

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently commissioned a state-of-the-art mammogram machine at the Linden Hospital Complex, in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice), marking a significant step in expanding breast cancer screening services across the country.



The new mammogram machine commissioned at the Linden Hospital Complex.

Previously, the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) was the only public health facility offering mammography services. With this addition, residents of Region 10 and surrounding areas now have improved access to early breast cancer detection, reducing the need to travel long distances for screenings. The mammogram machine was acquired at a cost of approximately \$43 million.

During his remarks at the commissioning ceremony, Dr Frank Anthony emphasised the importance of early detection in reducing cancer-related deaths.

“For many years, we have spoken about the need for a structured cancer programme, and now we are taking the necessary steps to implement it. By placing mammography machines in every region, we are making it

easier for individuals to access screening services,” he said.

The Health Minister further underscored his Government’s commitment to improving cancer care through timely diagnosis and treatment. “If we are going to improve survivability, we must ensure early detection and swift intervention. In the past, patients had to wait more than a month for biopsy results. Today, that timeframe has been reduced to just three to seven days,” Dr Anthony said.

The Linden Hospital Complex is the first of four locations to receive a mammogram machine, with additional units to be commissioned in the coming months.

The Ministry of Health is continuing to prioritise improved healthcare accessibility, ensuring that advanced medical technology reaches communities beyond Georgetown.

Among those present at the ceremony were Regional Health Officer, Dr Gregory Harris; Regional Executive Officer, Dwight John; Director of Non-communicable Diseases Dr Lachmine Lall; and other officials.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, was joined by regional officials for the cutting of the ribbon during the commissioning ceremony for the new mammogram machine.

Health Ministry moving to boost Guyana's readiness for health outbreaks

The Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organisation-World Health Organisation (PAHO-WHO) hosted a two-day meeting with the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point Committee to develop Guyana's 2024 State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report (SPAR).

The meeting focused on key priorities and actions needed to accelerate the Ministry of Health's preparedness in response to further health outbreaks, including pandemics.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, attended the first session of the

meeting, during which he credited the current improved system, but also spoke extensively on Guyana's plans to improve surveillance and other key areas to ensure Guyana's preparedness for further health outbreaks.

"I would say in three years, what we have seen are changes in how we do surveillance, changes in how we improve our labs, changes in the training that we have offered to the staff members who working in our industry, and changes in terms of collaboration with other agencies, because we are able now to work better together and be able to share information," he said.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, with members of the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point Committee, who are working to develop Guyana's 2024 State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report (SPAR).

The Health Minister highlighted that the National Public Reference Laboratory under the Ministry is now considered a Level Three facility and has made advances in detection capabilities (of viruses) through its integrated surveillance systems.

“We have been doing the surveillance and we are now able to detect these cases, which is very important because, in some instances, when we detect these cases, we are then able to take measures to contain any type of spread within the community,” said Dr Anthony.

He pointed out that, with the Ministry’s approval for the pandemic fund, the aim is to create a unified system across all health facilities across the country. He disclosed that this expansion will incorporate telemedicine and environmental health into surveillance.

“We want to use the existing infrastructure of telemedicine, where we have internet connectivity at these 84 sites, to enhance how we do surveillance. Apart from looking at surveillance in the human population, we are also now looking at how we integrate this with the environment and with mental health. So, we can have a truly ‘one health’ approach to surveillance in the country,” Dr. Anthony explained.

He applauded the core team for their contributions, thus far, in identifying deficiencies through assessments, thereby paving the way for recommendations to strengthen the country’s current capacity.

“When we finish, we should have a very comprehensive system, where we will be able to monitor a lot of parameters and help to keep the Guyanese people safer and healthy,” he added.

Also present at the meeting were PAHO/WHO Guyana Representative, Dr. Kim Eva Dickson; PAHO Advisor on Health Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control, Dr. Rainier Escalada; IHR/National Focal Point Coordinator, Dr Anand Persaud; other directors and programme heads of the Ministry of Health; and collaborating stakeholders.



Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, Minister of Health, speaking at the opening of the meeting with the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point Committee to develop Guyana’s 2024 State Party



His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, seen here with healthcare workers, has touted plans to have emergency diagnostic centres in every region.

New, modern facility for rehabilitative care on the cards

-- President

Building on the momentum of developing a world-class healthcare system, the construction of a modern rehabilitation centre will start this year, complementing the new state-of-the-art regional hospitals that will soon come on stream, His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali has announced.

From the construction and rehabilitation of health centres nationwide to the training of thousands of Guyanese, President Ali, during a recent live broadcast, spoke

extensively on how the healthcare system has evolved since 2020.

“As you know, a lot of our people are affected by stroke, and we don’t have a modern ‘rehab’ centre. So, this year, we’re going to commence the building of a ‘rehab’ centre that will look at the comprehensive rehabilitation in different areas,” said Dr Ali.

The centre will be completed by 2027, and will supplement the investments made so far

in Guyana's healthcare sector, which is being designed to ensure all Guyanese have equitable access to crucial medical services.

On that note, the President said that 25 health centres have been built, thus far. From the works to digitise the healthcare sector to the implementation of telemedicine, the government is putting in place modern technologies that would aid in improving service delivery and empowering patients. The President said it is important to understand that already the telemedicine project is taking shape in various hinterland villages.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr. Frank Anthony, recently announced that approximately 300 health facilities across Guyana are expected to be connected to Starlink by June 2025, thereby enhancing telemedicine services nationwide. Starlink, a satellite-operated Internet constellation, is being utilised to improve healthcare delivery, particularly in remote areas.

Currently, 53 telemedicine sites are connected to Starlink, with plans to expand to 85 by year-end, and more than 100 by the end of 2025. This cutting-edge technology ensures efficient and wide-reaching healthcare services, particularly in hinterland regions. It also allows health professionals in remote areas to consult with their counterparts in the city, aiding in patient diagnoses and treatment decisions.

Telemedicine facilitates real-time sharing of medical data, enabling remote professionals to observe the same details as on-site staff and to issue electronic medical transfers where necessary.

Additionally, the digitisation of Guyana's healthcare sector through the addition of electronic health records is expected to move ahead in the coming year, with a contract to be awarded soon.

Dr. Anthony, during his end-of-year press conference, had said that some progress has been made in this regard. He said the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-funded project went to tender earlier this year, with several expressions of interest received.

Emergency Services

President Ali said life-saving emergency services will be available in every region, marking a significant step towards having stronger healthcare infrastructure for all. "We understand that we have to invest in the national emergency healthcare system. So, very soon, we're going to put together a team to look at ways in which we can enhance emergency healthcare," he said.

The President pointed out that Government is looking at having a world-class, scalable emergency healthcare diagnostic centre in every region, which will support the regional hospitals.

The diagnostic centres will have ultrasound, x-ray, Computed Tomography (CT) scan and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facilities, as well as mammography machines. Of the 12 upcoming hospitals, six of them will be replacement facilities.

New Hospitals

A new hospital is being constructed by the government in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne), specifically at No. 75 Village. The objective of this project is to replace the existing Skeldon Hospital and enhance the range of services available to the community.

Additionally, the construction of new hospitals at Anna Regina, Essequibo Coast in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam); De Kinderen, West Coast Demerara in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara); Diamond, East Bank Demerara and Enmore, East Coast Demerara in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica), and Bath, West Coast Berbice in Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice), is in progress.

To support the building out of a world-class healthcare system, so far, more than 3,700 Guyanese have been trained in the healthcare system.

This was also highlighted by President Ali, who explained that these citizens were trained in various areas, from administration to nursing.



12 new hospitals to come on stream by 2028

- President Ali

...six to be commissioned in 2025

By the end of 2028, the Government of Guyana will have 12 state-of-the-art regional hospitals delivering world-class healthcare services to residents in Regions One (Barima-Waini), Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), Three (West Demerara-Essequibo Islands), Four (Demerara-Mahaica), Five (Mahaica-Berbice), Six (East Berbice-Corentyne), Eight (Potaro-Siparuni) and Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo).

Speaking at the sod turning event for yet another facility, the \$11.4 billion West Demerara Hospital at Vreed-en-Hoop, West

Coast Demerara, His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali said six of these institutions will be commissioned in the second and third quarters of 2025.

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali addressing residents of Region Three (West Demerara-Essequibo Islands) during the sod turning event for the \$11.4 billion new, state of the art West Demerara Regional Hospital.

These are at Diamond, East Bank Demerara; Enmore, East Coast Demerara; Bath, West Coast Berbice; Number 75 Village,

Corentyne, Berbice; De Kinderen, West Coast Demerara; and Lima, Essequibo Coast.

All of these institutions will have 24-hour Accident and Emergency units; 24-hour labs; a suite of imaging services, including ultrasound, digital X-Ray, Computed Tomography (CT) scans and operation theatres; thereby eliminating long hours of traveling to access quality care.

Also scheduled to open, in 2026, are the New Amsterdam Hospital, Berbice and the Paediatric and Maternal Hospital (PMH), Goedverwagting, East Coast Demerara, President Ali announced.

The PMH is the first of its kind in the Caribbean and will offer specialised services, enhancing Guyana's capacity to provide specialized care for mothers and children.

Alongside these major facilities, the Government has also injected significant

investments to improve healthcare delivery for residents in hinterland communities.

"The Moruca Regional Hospital, the Kato Regional Hospital and the Lethem Regional Hospital are scheduled to become operational by 2027," said President Ali. A modern hospital will also be constructed in Kamarang, Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni).

Meanwhile, the sod has been turned for the new West Demerara Hospital in Region Three, that will begin to serve residents in 2028. This facility is the second one to be constructed in Region Three to cater to the region's expanding economy.

In addition, President Ali noted that a new Stroke Rehabilitation Centre and an Oncology Centre will begin construction later this year, and set to be commissioned in 2027. "We have 84 telemedicine sites and we're going to expand that rapidly. We have more than 3,707 young trainees trained already in the last three years, and another 3,500 undergoing training," President Ali said, adding that this will complement the infrastructural improvements.

The President also reiterated Government's commitment to delivering quality and efficient healthcare services to all Guyanese, particularly in remote areas where access remains a challenge. He said, in the near future, Guyana will become a major hub for modern healthcare services, due to strategic investments being made by the Government



Construction of the new Lima Hospital, Essequibo Coast in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam).

Health Ministry hosts neurological seminar

...with support from New York-based Northwell Health

The Ministry of Health's Disability and Rehabilitation Services, in partnership with Northwell Health, recently hosted a one-day neurological seminar aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of healthcare workers in the field of neurology.

As a non-profit integrated healthcare network in the U.S., Northwell Health is New York State's largest healthcare provider and private employer, with more than 85,000 employees.

The seminar, attended by 45 healthcare professionals, covered key areas including stroke management, traumatic brain injury, early identification of neurological

disorders, spasticity and other critical topics. Participants gained valuable insights and practical techniques to improve patient care and outcomes in these specialised areas.

Northwell Health's representatives shared global best practices and innovative strategies for managing complex neurological cases, providing participants with cutting-edge tools to integrate into their daily practice.

The Ministry of Health remains dedicated to fostering partnerships that contribute to the development of Guyana's healthcare system and the well-being of all residents. With initiatives like these, healthcare providers are better equipped to tackle the challenges associated with neurological conditions, ensuring improved access to specialised care across the country



Northwell Health Facilitator, Erin Tyler, leads an engaging presentation at neurological seminar.



Participants at the Neurological Seminar.

Gov't providing services for all to live 'a good life'

-- Health Minister



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has declared that the Government of Guyana has been providing the necessary services to improve the lives of all Guyanese across the country.

Dr Anthony made these remarks during a recent engagement, where he noted that the Government has made significant investments in improving the lives of people, specifically in the health sector.

Describing some of these services, he indicated that, under a programme that was introduced last year, the Government was able to test the eyes of close to 68,000 people throughout the country.

Further, they also provided \$15,000 vouchers to help persons get their spectacles, and more than 54,000 persons benefitted from that initiative. "This is what a caring Government looks like," said the Minister.

In relation to dialysis care, Dr Anthony said that the President authorised that every dialysis patient must get \$600,000 per year. With this, he said Government was able to

help 129 patients in 2021 and 326 in 2022. By 2023, the number of beneficiaries climbed to 438 and, in 2024, some 550 persons received the life-saving treatment.

The Minister said, not only did they provide resources for persons to get access to dialysis, but also work was done with a number of private sector partners to introduce dialysis centres in various regions. This, he explained, is in comparison to a \$300,000.00 one-off grant that the former Administration, now in Opposition, gave to a mere 64 dialysis patients in 2019. As a result of this, he said many persons were unable to afford their dialysis treatment. "So, when these guys wake up and they go on press conferences and try to palaver like if they have the people's interest at heart, we must let people know how heartless they were, because when they had an opportunity to be able to give service to these same patients, they did not do that," said Dr Anthony. However, he said that the his Government is providing these types of

services so that “our people can live a good life.”

Additionally, Dr Anthony told the gathering that the Government has also been focusing on the two main cancers that affect women here, which are breast cancer and cervical cancer. He noted that they are providing vaccines that help to prevent the latter. Further to this, testing is also being provided and, as such, last year for the first time in the country’s history, some 12,000 human papillomavirus (HPV) tests were done.

The Health Minister also noted that the Government went even further to introduce a new measure called the universal health voucher. With this, some 500,000 persons across the country would receive a \$10,000 voucher to have tests done at various laboratories across the country. Dr Anthony said that they have met with all the labs and have standardised the costs for these tests. “So, we don’t talk, we deliver and everything that we promised in our manifesto, we have delivered it, and we are now going beyond the manifesto,” said Dr. Anthony.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, engaging in talks with Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) Representative to Guyana, Dr Kim Eva Dickson.

Health Minister, PAHO/WHO Rep discuss HEARTS Initiative in Guyana

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently hosted a meeting with Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) Representative to Guyana, Dr Kim Eva Dickson, and a team from her office, along with officials from the Ministry of Health, to

evaluate the implementation of the HEARTS Initiative in the country.

The meeting focused on reviewing the current progress and discussing strategies for scaling up the initiative, which is aimed at enhancing the overall response to cardiovascular diseases at the primary healthcare level in Guyana.

The collaborative effort is essential in strengthening the national healthcare system and improving the management of cardiovascular health across the nation.

Among other Ministry staff who participated in the meeting were Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr Narine Singh; Chronic Disease Coordinator, Dr Daniele Drepaul; Technical Officer for Treatment and Management of Cardiovascular Diseases, Dr Michael Pereira; and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Mr Cecil Abrams.



Teams from the Ministry of Health and PAHO/WHO in discussion on the HEARTS Initiative.



The newly established Muritaro Health Post in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice).

Muritaro Health Post commissioned to enhance healthcare delivery in Region 10

In a continued effort to improve healthcare access across Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice), the Ministry of Health has officially commissioned the Muritaro Health Post, a newly established facility which was completed at a cost of at \$23.7 million.

This modern health post is set to serve over 400 residents, bringing essential healthcare services closer to the community and reducing the need for long-distance travel to larger medical facilities. Residents will benefit from a wide range of free healthcare

services, including maternal and child health, chronic disease management, family planning services, vaccination programmes, school and adolescent health services and general outpatient care.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, emphasised the Government's commitment to strengthening healthcare services across all regions. "We are trying to ensure that, in every one of our communities, a health post or health centre is established to provide quality health services to residents," he said.

The Minister highlighted that, under his Government, 25 new health centres were established across various regions to meet the health needs of communities. He also

disclosed that hospital services across the country will be improved with six new state-of-the-art facilities that will open later this year.

Meanwhile, Regional Health Officer (RHO), Dr Gregory Harris, extended gratitude to the Government of Guyana for their investment and efforts towards improving health care in the region. He encouraged community members to take advantage of the services offered. The new facility, he said, will benefit the people of Muritaro greatly.

The Muritaro Health Post is fully equipped and staffed with trained healthcare professionals, ensuring that all residents, especially more vulnerable groups, such as, children, pregnant women and the elderly, receive continuous, quality medical care.

Also present at the event were Toshao, Owen Bowling; Regional Executive Officer (REO), Mr Dwight John; and other officials. The Ministry of Health is continuing to expand and improve healthcare services across the country, ensuring that every citizen, regardless of location, has access to essential medical care.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, accompanied by Regional Health Officer (RHO), Dr Gregory Harris, cutting the ribbon for the newly established Muritaro Health Post.

Health Ministry opens \$28.3M Blueberry Hill Health Centre in Region Ten

In a major step toward improving healthcare access, the Ministry of Health recently opened the Blueberry Hill Health Centre, a state-of-the-art facility valued at approximately \$28.3 million, in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice).

The health centre will provide expanded medical services to residents of Blueberry Hill and surrounding communities, ensuring quality, accessible and free healthcare for all.

The facility is fully equipped to offer a wide range of primary healthcare services, including maternal and child health, chronic disease management, immunisation and vaccination programmes, family planning



Newly established Blueberry Hill Health Centre in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice).

and reproductive health services, environmental health services, and general outpatient services, among others.

While delivering remarks, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, said the opening of the health centre represents Government's dedication to improving healthcare access, reducing the burden on regional hospitals, and ensuring that residents receive timely and efficient medical care.

The Minister said the facility will significantly benefit residents by reducing travel time for those seeking essential medical care and easing the patient load on larger healthcare institutions. He encouraged residents to take full advantage of the services offered at the Blueberry Hill Health Centre.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, and Regional Health Officer (RHO), Dr Gregory Harris, accompanied by a student, cut the ceremonial ribbon for the newly established Blueberry Hill Health Centre.

Attending the commissioning ceremony for the health centre were Regional Health Officer (RHO), Dr Gregory Harris; Deputy RHO, Dr Kenesha Samuels; Regional Chairman, Mr Deron Adams; Regional Executive Officer (REO), Mr Dwight John; staff members of the Linden Hospital Complex; and other officials.

The Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Health, remains committed to expanding and modernising healthcare facilities nationwide. Plans are already in place to enhance health infrastructure, provide continuous training for medical personnel, and introduce advanced medical technology to ensure citizens receive world-class care.

Guyana strengthens health preparedness with SPAR development meeting

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), recently hosted a two-day meeting with the International Health Regulations (IHR) National Focal Point Committee to develop Guyana's 2024 State Party Self-Assessment Annual Report (SPAR).

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, attended the first session of the meeting, during which he detailed Guyana's



plans to improve surveillance and other key measures to ensure national preparedness for future outbreaks and pandemics.

Reflecting on the COVID-19 experience, the Minister emphasised the need for proactive measures and robust protocols to safeguard public health. To bolster its response capacity, the Government secured a US\$7 million loan and a further US\$15 million in grant-pandemic funding through a

partnership with the World Bank in 2024. These resources will support safe specimen transport, quarantine for sick animals, and enhanced monitoring of zoonotic diseases that could potentially affect humans.

Minister Anthony also underscored the importance of molecular surveillance in understanding viruses. He said plans are in place to expand the capabilities of the National Public Health Reference Lab, strengthening both technical expertise and the surveillance system. Dr Anthony added that the recruitment of additional technical personnel will aid in developing these systems over the next three years, with a focus on standardising reporting formats, training personnel and ensuring timely data collection and analysis.

A national response team will be established to investigate surges in illnesses, while efforts continue to improve health infrastructure across all regions. By the end

of this year, six new hospitals will each have their own laboratories, offering a range of diagnostic tests. These labs will complement existing facilities, creating an interconnected network of facilities through advanced software for seamless information sharing.






In addition, the Ministry is introducing influenza vaccines for healthcare workers and the elderly, with an initial shipment of 12,000 doses expected soon. Public education campaigns will be launched to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination.

Minister Anthony highlighted the importance of global health vigilance, stressing the need to monitor international developments and implement systems that allow Guyana to swiftly respond to emerging threats. With these comprehensive measures, Guyana aims to enhance its preparedness and resilience against future health crises.

Prostate Cancer Screening Services are available at the following public health facilities

Region	Name Of Facility	Region	Name Of Facility
1	Mabaruma Hospital	6	New Amsterdam Regional Hospital
2	Suddie Hospital		Skeldon Hospital
3	West Demerara Regional Hospital	7	Bartica Regional Hospital
4	Georgetown Public Hospital Cooperation	8	Mahdia Regional Hospital
5	Fort Wellington Hospital	9	Lethem Regional Hospital Complex
	Mahaicony Regional Hospital	10	Linden Hospital Complex

If you're 45 years and older or have a family history of prostate disease, it's time to get screened!

www.health.gov.gy |     



Gov't to develop integrated health platform for enhanced access to specialised medical care

-- President Ali

In an effort to standardise healthcare services, the Government is developing an integrated digital health system to connect all healthcare facilities nationwide. His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali explained, that right now, healthcare facilities across Guyana operate independently, leading to inefficiencies in resource allocation and specialist access.

“If you have a doctor that is highly specialised in La Grange and you have in Leonora a doctor that does not have that specialty [then] Lenora would not benefit from that speciality because there is no integration,” he said during the sod turning event for the new West Demerara Hospital.

To address this challenge, the Government is modernising healthcare by constructing the West Demerara Hospital, the De Kinderen Regional Hospital and, in the next term, will be upgrading the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). These major hospitals will be digitally linked to smaller

facilities across the country through an integrated patient management system.

According to the President, discussions have already been initiated to have this platform integrated with major international healthcare providers, including Mount Sinai and Northwell Health in the U.S., as well as leading health institutions in India. This system will be implemented not only in public health institutions, but will also be incorporated into private facilities as well.

“We’re investing to give people these specialty services and that platform can be available 24-7. Imagine what that will do for healthcare,” the President said.

The head of state elaborated on how this will improve patient care. For example, if a patient in a remote health post along the Demerara River need urgent medical attention, the on-site medic immediately connects with a doctor at the New West Demerara Hospital via the digital platform. This will allow a doctor to access the patient’s preliminary diagnosis and order lab tests remotely.

He said by the time the patient is transported, doctors at the receiving hospital would already have a treatment plan.

By pooling medical talent onto a single national platform, the system will enhance healthcare delivery and ensure that specialised services are accessible to all, regardless of location, or whether they are in the public or private sector.

“That is what we’re targeting [by] building these facilities, so that there is an equitable baseline access of healthcare across the board,” said Dr Ali. The President said he is confident that, by 2030, Guyana will have one of the most advanced and integrated healthcare systems in the Caribbean region.



His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali (in brown suit); Prime Minister, Honourable Mark Phillips (extreme left); Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony (extreme right) and other officials from the U.S. Embassy and Hess Corporation.

Hess Corp. extends support for Guyana-Mount Sinai national healthcare initiative

-- Mount Sinai to aid development of oncology centre

Global energy company, Hess Corporation, has extended its support for the Government of Guyana's national healthcare initiative, which is being implemented collaboratively with the Mount Sinai Health System, the largest hospital network in New York City in the U.S. His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali made the announcement recently during the sod turning ceremony for the \$11.4 billion new West Demerara Hospital at Vreed en Hoop, West Coast Demerara.

In 2022, President Ali had announced a national healthcare initiative in collaboration with the Mount Sinai and Hess Corporation to improve the quality of and access to healthcare. Later this year, Guyana with support from Mount Sinai, will begin work to establish a modern oncology centre, which President Ali said will become operational by 2027. "We're not only looking at diagnostics, but building facilities for treatment," said the President.

In 2022, the Ministry of Health, on behalf of the Government, entered into an agreement with Mount Sinai and Hess Corporation to improve the quality of and access to healthcare for the people of Guyana. Under this programme, the Government will receive top tier assistance in developing high quality primary care, specialised services in cardiology and oncology, and improvements to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). This work

will be funded jointly by Hess Corporation and the Guyana Government.

The partnership is already bearing fruit, as President Ali revealed that discussions have been initiated with Mount Sinai to develop a module to build Guyana's rehabilitation care centres across the country. "Because many times beds are occupied in hospitals, space is occupied, whereby the patients do not necessarily need to be in that hospital, but require rehabilitative care. So, we are not sleeping, we are addressing health care in a holistic way," he said.

Under this partnership, the Government is working to develop electronic medical records (EMR) for Guyana's healthcare system. The goal is to improve patient care and safety and to make it easier for patients to access their health information. Minister Anthony had noted that the first phase of this project will be implemented at the GPHC and will gradually expand to other institutions.

Hess Corporation is a leading global independent energy company engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas. The company is recognized as an industry leader in environmental, social and governance performance and disclosure. Hess has extended its support for another three years.



All accredited medical laboratories to participate in healthcare voucher initiative

-- approximately 500,000 persons to benefit

As the Government moves to roll out the new universal healthcare voucher initiative, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has announced that all accredited medical laboratories across the country will be involved. Dr Anthony, in a post on his Facebook page, said the voucher initiative aims to provide 500,000 individuals with access to essential laboratory tests, marking a substantial step forward in the nation's healthcare. The programme, set to commence in 2025, will offer a \$10,000.00 universal healthcare voucher to every Guyanese citizen.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has announced that all accredited

medical laboratories across the country will be involved in the healthcare voucher initiative.

The voucher will cover the cost of a variety of health tests, focusing on early detection and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The Government has allocated an impressive \$5 billion for this initiative, demonstrating its commitment to improving public health.

The participation of all accredited medical laboratories will ensure widespread availability and accessibility of health services. This collaborative effort between the Government and laboratory partners is

expected to significantly enhance the reach and effectiveness of preventive healthcare measures.

Previously, His Excellency President Dr. Irfaan Ali had emphasised the importance of this initiative, stating that the universal health voucher “will help us as we work to

build a healthy, strong and resilient population.”

The programme aligns with the Government’s broader vision of achieving universal health coverage and reducing financial barriers to accessing healthcare.

Gov’t advancing telemedicine to link international healthcare providers

The Government of Guyana is enhancing its telemedicine initiative to transform it into a world-class system integrated with international healthcare providers. The move forms part of the Government’s holistic efforts to modernise the healthcare sector through technology. His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali stated that telemedicine will be linked with renowned health institutions such as Mount Sinai and Northwell Health in New York, U. S., as well as facilities in India.

Officially launched in 2022, telemedicine is a new concept undertaken by the Government to bridge the healthcare gap between the hinterland and the coastland. It is essentially



a two-way, real-time interactive communication between a patient and a healthcare specialist at different sites. “That is why we are partnering with the best so that our telemedicine programme can be a global one that fits into leading health institutions, and that has already started,” President Ali said.

He made these remarks, while also dismissing the Opposition's allegations of corruption and race-baiting tactics, which he said were attempts to undermine the Government's progress. "That is their strategy, using race-baiting and criticising because of the inroads we are making," he said during a recent live broadcast.

Currently, 84 telemedicine sites are in operation, particularly in hinterland communities. These sites are equipped with audio and video technology and integrated medical devices that enable clinicians to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients remotely.

President Ali emphasised that integrating telemedicine with international institutions is a critical step in establishing a modern, world-class healthcare system. "We are talking about building a platform in which we integrate our capacity and capability in the private and public sectors that will support the building of this modern, world-class healthcare system," said Dr Ali.

The Government has said it remains committed to delivering quality and efficient healthcare services to all Guyanese, particularly in remote areas where access remains a challenge. President Ali also reiterated the Government's vision to transform Guyana into a regional hub for healthcare service.



A digital stethoscope, pulse oximeter, infrared thermometer and blood pressure monitor, among other technological devices, in clinics countrywide.



Gov't ramps up efforts to boost HPV vaccination coverage

The Government of Guyana is intensifying efforts to increase human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination coverage to 90 per cent, as part of its strategy to reduce cervical cancer risks. During a recent commissioning ceremony in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice), Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, underscored the importance of the HPV vaccine and highlighted the progress made in expanding vaccination coverage.

“Up to two years ago when we didn’t have a strong programme, the vaccination coverage was just about 14 to 15 per cent. At the end of last year, it went up to about 58 to 60 per cent,” Dr Anthony said. “So, we are making progress. But we want to get to 90 per cent because that is the coverage that the World Health Organisation (WHO) is recommending.”

He emphasised that cervical cancer, the second most prevalent cancer among women, is preventable as it is caused by the HPV virus. The Health Minister urged eligible individuals to get vaccinated, noting

that females between the ages of nine and 45 can receive the vaccine to reduce their risk of infection. “We are trying to make sure that the vaccines are available and that we get people to take it,” he pointed out.

For the first time, the Government conducted 12,000 HPV tests in 2024. Of this number, approximately 2,000 individuals tested positive, increasing their risk of developing cervical cancer. “And for all the persons who tested positive, we have already put them on a pathway so that they can get treatment to prevent this cancer from occurring,” he explained.

Minister Anthony also urged individuals to take advantage of the cervical cancer voucher valued at \$8,000, which can be utilised at several health institutions. In June 2024, the Government launched a \$2.8 billion cervical screening programme to offset screening costs for thousands of women between the ages of 21 and 65. The Government also launched a new 2024-2030 national action plan last year aimed at eradicating cervical cancer.



His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali with nurses and staff of the West Demerara Regional Hospital in Vreed en Hoop, West Coast Demerara.

Sod turned for \$11.4B West Demerara Regional Hospital

-- facility to have 150 beds, further reduce referral rates

The sod was recently turned for a new modern West Demerara Regional Hospital at Vreed en Hoop, West Coast Demerara, as part of the Government's thrust toward providing improved healthcare services all across the country.

This new facility serves as an \$11.4 billion investment in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara). During the ceremony, His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali noted that the new hospital that will be constructed will have more than 150 beds, which he noted will not be configured in the traditional open-ward system as is common here. This, he said, is so as to ensure there is more transparency and accountability with staff and among patients.

Delving into some of the features of the hospital, President Ali said that the in-patient facility will have an accident and emergency unit, intensive care unit, maternity and delivery services, four

operating theatres, the general ward, paediatric Intensive Care Unit (ICU) wards, and neonatal and newborn ICU facilities. Further, the outpatient aspect will cater for endoscopy services, an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) clinic, as well as dermatology, ophthalmology, internal medicine, dermatology and gynaecology clinics, among other important services.

"All of these services will come with this new hospital," he remarked. Against this backdrop, Dr Ali indicated that there are very important concepts that must be understood in building out a world-class healthcare system. Firstly, he said there must be world-class infrastructure, and the turning of the sod for this facility serves as another representation of that. There must also be world-class equipment and diagnostic facilities, and this, he noted, is being built across the country, as all facilities are being outfitted similarly.

The President said his Government has been directing significant investment toward healthcare since 2020 all across Guyana, and will continue to do so into its next term in office. Meanwhile, Minister of Health Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, who also delivered remarks at the ceremony, indicated that it is one of historic significance. He said one of the first things that President Ali had said when they got into Government in 2020 was that he would like to see a world-class healthcare system in Guyana.

“The President did not just say it, he backed up what he was saying with the resources to ensure that we will be able to build this world-class healthcare system, and that is very important,” said Dr Anthony.

Turning his attention to the new West Demerara Regional Hospital, Dr Anthony indicated that services such as digital imaging services will be provided at the new facility when it is complete. To this end, he said that the facility will be outfitted with a Computed Tomography (CT) Scan machine, mammography machine and, importantly, an MRI machine.

The Health Minister revealed that the new hospital will also have its own catheterisation laboratory, commonly called a ‘cath lab’. This facility serves as a place where doctors perform minimally invasive procedures on the heart and blood vessels. “What that means is that if somebody comes in here with a heart attack, you will be evaluated at the accident and emergency and you’ll be sent upstairs straight to that lab. They will be able to check your heart to see which vessel is blocked, and once they are able to pick up which vessel is blocked, they will be able to put in stents,” he explained. This means that patients would no longer have to travel to Georgetown for these types of services, added the Minister.

Dr Anthony said the type of transformational projects that Government is investing in will change the quality of healthcare that is being delivered to the people and will make a “huge difference.” “With the prosperity that this country is enjoying, we want people to live long so that they can enjoy this prosperity. And that is why we are investing so much in your health,” the Minister said.

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali; Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony; and other officials turn the sod for the new West Demerara Regional Hospital at Vreed en Hoop, West Coast Demerara.





Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, speaking during a recent sitting of the National Assembly.

Health Minister refutes claims of failing maternal care, cites decline in deaths

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has strongly refuted claims that the healthcare system is failing expectant mothers, citing a decline in maternal deaths. He stated that the three recorded maternal deaths in 2025 resulted from underlying health complications, including a ruptured cerebral artery due to eclampsia, cardiogenic shock and severe anaemia.

Minister Anthony was responding to an Opposition Member of Parliament who argued that maternal deaths indicate a failing healthcare system during the 101st sitting of the National Assembly. He explained that eclampsia-related deaths occur when high blood pressure during pregnancy leads to fatal complications despite medical intervention. “This is one of the reasons why mothers would die during pregnancy. And there’s a 17-18 per cent chance that this can happen. This is not the system failing. The system has actually improved to respond to these types of emergencies,” the Minister said. He pointed out that 23 maternal deaths were recorded in 2018, compared to 14 in 2024.

Efforts to enhance maternal care include purchasing essential equipment, expanding operating theatres nationwide, and rolling out training programmes to improve the ability of doctors to handle pregnancy-related complications.

The Opposition also queried whether junior doctors were adequately supervised, in light of what was described as a loss of senior healthcare professionals from the health system. But Minister Anthony dismissed these claims, pointing out that the number of medical practitioners has increased from 690 under the previous Government to 1,382 in 2023.

He said there are now many more obstetrics and gynaecology specialists stationed at various hospitals than before. The Government plans to add 18 more consultants to the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department in 2025. “You tell me how that is bleeding. We have more doctors now in the country and they are providing care,” the Health Minister said.

GNBS certifies GPHC Pathology Lab

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently attended the certification ceremony for the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) Pathology Laboratory.

The laboratory has been certified in accordance with the local standard, Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) GYS170-2021, demonstrating its commitment to quality and reliability in pathology services. It has established robust



Officials, healthcare professionals, and stakeholders celebrate the certification of the GPHC Pathology Laboratory.



Chief Executive Officer of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), Mr Robbie Rambarran, and a representative from the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS).

systems to govern its operations, with documented evidence supporting compliance with the required standards.

Speaking at the certification ceremony, the Minister noted that the laboratory is not only equipped with state-of-the-art technology, but is also pioneering services such as telepathology. Dr Anthony underscored the laboratory's critical role in cancer diagnosis, particularly on World Cancer Day, which coincided with the event.

He explained that before the lab's establishment, the healthcare system had limited capacity for detailed cancer diagnostics. Now, advanced histopathology services allow for more precise cancer identification, significantly improving treatment outcomes.



Health Ministry hosts training programme to enhance prosthetic services.

The Ministry of Health's Rehabilitation and Disability Services, in collaboration with Prostheta Corporation, recently concluded a successful one-week practical training programme for prosthetists, technicians and therapists at the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre in Georgetown.

The training fostered greater collaboration between prosthetic and orthotic personnel at the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre in Georgetown, further strengthening national capacity in rehabilitation services.

This initiative is part of a continuing partnership aimed at improving prosthetic services in Guyana, which has seen substantial training efforts over the past five years. The latest training session focused on advanced prosthetic technologies and empowering specialists to develop lighter, better-fitting and more efficient prosthetic devices that enhance patient mobility and comfort.

Sixteen individuals benefited from new prosthetic devices, including both upper and lower-limb prostheses. A significant highlight of the programme was the

successful development of a myoelectric arm, a highly functional prosthetic device that significantly improves movement. This state-of-the-art prosthesis was fitted for patient Mr Ramchitath (we should get the first name), marking a notable advancement in local prosthetic capabilities.

Director of the Disability and Rehabilitation Services, Dr. Ariana Mangar, emphasised the importance of training staff in the latest technologies. "Over the last five years, Prostheta has helped us train our staff in the latest technologies for prosthesis development. This allows us to make prostheses lighter, better fitting and more efficient, ensuring that patients receive the best possible fit when they get their prosthesis," she stated.

Mr. Ayeni Olutunde, a 48-year-old father of two and member of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF), expressed his gratitude for the Government's support in providing prosthetics. "As you can see, I'm an amputee, and I came to get some adjustments done on my prosthetics. I feel really good knowing that there's a way for people like me to regain mobility. This

programme is a great initiative. There's always room for improvement, but in time, things will only get better," he said.

"The fact that someone can receive a prosthetic and be rehabilitated to live independently again is a huge step forward," he added.

The training programme also fostered greater collaboration among prosthetic and orthotic personnel at the centre, further strengthening the national capacity in

rehabilitation services. By equipping local professionals with the latest skills and knowledge, the Ministry of Health continues to advance its mission of providing high-quality prosthetic solutions to individuals with limb loss.

Prosthetika Corporation is a California, U.S.-based organisation whose mission is to provide appropriate and sustainable assistance to disabled people in developing countries.

Ministry of Health launches patient care assistant training programme



The students who were inducted in the Patient Care Assistant (PCA) Training Programme.

The Ministry of Health, through the Health Sciences Division, recently launched the first batch of the Patient Care Assistant (PCA) Training Programme at the Nursing School in Kingston, Georgetown. The PCA programme, over four months, will train more than 100 individuals from across

Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica) in various aspects of patient care.

Additionally, the programme is already decentralised to Regions One (Barima-Waini), Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara), Five (Mahaica-Berbice), Seven

(Cuyuni-Mazaruni) and Nine (Upper Takutu- Upper Essequibo), with plans to expand to other regions soon.

Previously, the programme was offered through various agencies. Each student

enrolled will receive a monthly stipend and, upon completion, they will be guaranteed employment in the health sector.

CT scan machine earmarked for Linden Hospital Complex

Residents from Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Upper Berbice) and surrounding areas will soon have improved access to imaging services, as Linden Hospital Complex will receive a new Computerised Tomography (CT) scan machine.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently made the disclosure at the commissioning of the Muritaro's Health Post.

"Now, we haven't ignored Linden. So, we have [made funds available] in this year's budget for a CT scan machine for the Linden Hospital. Once Dr (Gregory) Harris



A Computed Tomography (CT) scan machine.

(Regional Health Officer) settles down, he will have to do the procurement to buy a CT scan (machine) for this hospital," Dr Anthony said.

In addition to expanding the services being offered at the hospital, this machine will drastically reduce the need for persons to travel great distances for these services. "We have taken a decision that we want to improve the quality of hospital care that we are giving to our patients," said Dr Anthony.

Dr Anthony recently commissioned a state-of-the-art mammogram machine at the Linden Hospital Complex, expanding breast

cancer screening services for many women. This will also reduce the need for patients to

travel to Georgetown or elsewhere to be screened

Gov't expanding health services to Region Ten

Residents of Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice) no longer have to travel far to access primary healthcare services following the commissioning of Muritaro's \$23.7 million Health Post and Blueberry Hill's \$28.3 million Health Centre in that region.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony said his Government is actively working to ensure that every community either has a health post or health centre. "Over the last three years, we have built

close to 25 new health centres and health posts across this country. And in this region, we have a couple of them that we have built and we are very proud of that. We hope that people would utilise them," said Dr Anthony.

Through its targeted interventions and investments in the health sector, the Government is ensuring that every Guyanese citizen has access to advanced health services, added the Minister.

Health Ministry hosts review meeting on tobacco cessation clinics

The Ministry of Health's Chronic Diseases Unit recently convened a review meeting on Tobacco Cessation Clinics at the Ministry's Boardroom in Brickdam, Georgetown. The meeting brought together healthcare professionals to evaluate the progress of the

clinics, address existing challenges and identify strategies for enhancing tobacco cessation services across the nation.

Key topics of discussion included patient success rates, the effectiveness of

interventions and barriers to service delivery. Participants explored various solutions aimed at improving clinic accessibility, resource allocation and public awareness initiatives to support those seeking to quit tobacco.

Currently, nine tobacco cessation clinics operate in Regions Three and Four, offering vital services such as brief tobacco interventions and nicotine replacement therapy. These interventions have proven instrumental in aiding individuals on their journey to quitting tobacco use. The Ministry of Health is committed to ongoing evaluation and improvements to enhance the effectiveness of cessation clinics nationwide, ultimately aiming to reduce the impact of tobacco-related diseases in the community.

The meeting was attended by several key figures, including the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh; Co-ordinator of the Chronic Disease Unit, Dr. Dianele Drepaul; and Tobacco Control Officer at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Shelieza Gopie. Together, they emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts in the fight against tobacco use and its associated health risks.



Healthcare professionals at the Ministry of Health's review meeting on tobacco cessation.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, engaging in discussions with Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) Representative to Guyana, Dr Kim Eva Dickson.

MOH, PAHO hold discussion on health project for women and adolescent girls

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently held talks with Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO)

Representative to Guyana, Dr Kim Eva Dickson, on the 'Improved Health of Women and Adolescent Girls in Situations of Vulnerability Project' at his Brickdam Headquarters, Georgetown.

The initiative, led by PAHO/WHO in partnership with the Ministry of Health and

the Ministry of Education, seeks to enhance the empowerment and leadership of women and adolescent girls in areas of sexual, reproductive and maternal health care rights. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of these groups to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



British High Commissioner to Guyana,
Ms Jane Miller

British High Commissioner pays courtesy call on Health Minister

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently met with the British High Commissioner to Guyana, Ms Jane Miller, following a courtesy call at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre at Liliendaal, Greater Georgetown.

Discussions focused on strengthening the health sector through meaningful collaboration between Guyana and the United Kingdom, with emphasis on key areas of mutual interest.



British High Commissioner to Guyana, Ms Jane Miller engaging with Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony.

'Public health not a matter of mockery, political mischief'

-- Health Ministry

The Ministry of Health has strongly condemned the mischievous and politically motivated article published in the Kaieteur News on February 17, 2025, attempting to dissuade Guyanese from participating in the Universal Healthcare Voucher Programme that will benefit over 500,000 Guyanese.

The Ministry said the initiative is a well-structured component of the Government's primary health care strategy, designed to ensure early detection of illnesses, which will help patients better access care and treatment on the onset of their illness or disease. "Early diagnosis not only means early treatment, but it also offers patients to receive counselling and guidance on how to make informed decisions on lifestyle changes, such as their diets," the Ministry said.

Under the programme, each citizen will receive a \$10,000.00 voucher to access essential diagnostic tests at over 30 accredited laboratories which will complement the public health facilities across the country. Recognising the importance of affordability, the Government of Guyana, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), has successfully negotiated a uniform price for a basic menu of tests, ensuring accessibility and fairness for all Guyanese. "It is deeply concerning that Kaieteur News, which is run

by a Publisher with a clear political agenda, has chosen to wage a campaign against a programme that prioritises the health and well-being of ordinary Guyanese, the Ministry said.

"Their attempt to call for a boycott under the guise of satire is no joke. It is reckless and dangerous. We cannot afford to play Russian roulette with the health of our people," the ministry added. "To oppose such a programme means you are depriving them of a critical benefit that empowers them to take charge of their health."

The Health Ministry noted that public health is not a matter of mockery, political mischief, or self-serving narratives and that encouraging citizens to reject access to critical health screenings puts lives at risk, particularly among vulnerable populations who rely on these services for early detection and treatment of diseases.

The Universal Health Voucher Programme ensures that every Guyanese, regardless of income level, has access to fundamental diagnostic services that are critical in routine checkups. "We urge citizens to see through the political games and embrace this opportunity to improve their health and longevity," the Ministry stated.

“The Government remains committed to ensuring that every Guyanese has the chance to live a long, healthy, and productive life, benefitting from the nation’s ongoing

economic transformation. The Universal Health Voucher Programme is about building a healthier, stronger nation. It is no secret that early detection saves lives.”

Manawarin Village to receive major healthcare boost

-- with new health post, training initiatives

Residents of Manawarin Village are set to benefit from improved healthcare services following a high-level outreach led by Regional Chairperson of Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), Ms Vilma De Silva; Regional Vice Chairwoman of Region Two, Ms Annasha Peters; and Regional Health Officer, Dr. Ranjeev Singh.

During a community meeting held in the village, the officials announced that the Government of Guyana’s plans to construct a new health post with living quarters for healthcare providers, ensuring better medical access and proper accommodation for personnel. The initiative is part of the Government’s ongoing efforts to strengthen



Residents who participated in the meeting.

healthcare delivery in hinterland communities.

As part of the effort to build local healthcare capacity, three community members have been selected for training as Community Health Workers (CHWs). This move aims to equip the village with trained personnel who can provide essential medical services and support emergency cases.

Additionally, the Government will provide a shed boat with an engine to facilitate timely patient transfers and improve emergency medical responses. This initiative is expected to address longstanding transportation challenges, ensuring that residents receive prompt care when needed.

Speaking at the meeting, Ms De Silva reaffirmed the Government's commitment to equitable healthcare and community development. She emphasised that investments in healthcare infrastructure and personnel training are essential to ensuring that all Guyanese, regardless of location, have access to quality medical services.

Dr Singh assured residents that the Regional Health Services will maintain frequent visits to the community to support healthcare operations. He pledged the Department's continued assistance in ensuring the smooth operation of healthcare initiatives in the region.

Ms Peters welcomed the collaborative efforts, highlighting that the new health post will significantly enhance healthcare delivery in the region. She praised the Government's initiative, noting that improved medical facilities will have a lasting impact on the well-being of residents. The engagement underscored the Government's dedication to ensuring that hinterland communities receive the necessary resources to enhance healthcare access and overall development. Through infrastructural improvements, personnel training and reliable medical transportation, the Government is continuing to push forward policies that uplift communities across Guyana.



10,000 healthcare voucher rolls out in Linden

The Government of Guyana is currently rolling out the \$10,000.00 Universal Healthcare Voucher in the town of Linden in

Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice). Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, had made the announcement during the commissioning of Blueberry Hill Health Centre in Linden. The initiative enables individuals to undergo medical tests at private or public health facilities, providing essential baseline health data.

The \$5 billion programme is expected to benefit approximately 500,000 persons nationwide. “We are trying to get a standardised price from [the private sector lab] so that this price can be across the country. We want people to be healthier. This country is going through a wave of prosperity and we want people to live long so that they can enjoy this prosperity that we have,” the Minister said.

The Minister encouraged citizens to utilise other services, including the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, cervical cancer screening and the eye-testing and spectacles voucher programme.

Eye Testing, Spectacles Programme

Minister Anthony also announced an expansion of the Government’s eye-testing and spectacles voucher programme by lowering the age requirement from 65 to 50 years. Currently, individuals under 18 and those over 65 are benefitting from a \$2,000.00 voucher for an eye test and a \$15,000.00 voucher if spectacles are needed.

Since its conception in June 2024, around 60,000 people have been supported through the programme. Nearly 55,000 individuals received an additional \$15,000.00 for their spectacles. Dr Anthony urged elderly citizens to get their eyes tested. He noted that those diagnosed with cataracts will be placed on a waiting list for free surgery. This procedure normally costs between \$250,000.00 and \$300,000.00 per eye in the private sector. This service will be provided free of cost by the Government.



An eye examination in progress.

Human Services Ministry helping to combat mental health issues

The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security is continuing to lead efforts in assisting homeless individuals with mental health challenges. This undertaking is being carried out through ongoing collaborations

with the Ministry of Health’s Mental Health Unit and the Guyana Police Force (GPF).

During a recent press conference, Minister of Human Services and Social Security,

Honourable Dr Vindhya Persaud, said her Ministry has a response team in place to address this issue. She said the team goes out at least twice per week to ensure these persons are picked up from the streets. This exercise is done by the Human Services Ministry and the Police.

“They are then placed at the Night Shelter. If they have mental health challenges, they are worked on through the Mental Health Unit, and that falls under the Ministry of Health. Sometimes we go beyond that to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GHPC). We have a very effective partnership,” Minister Persaud said.

The Night Shelter, which is operated by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, offers temporary accommodation and care for individuals who are homeless and indigent. “What I want to make very clear, the Night Shelter, while it falls under the Ministry of Human Services, is not a prison, we cannot force people to stay. We give them care, accommodation and food. Sometimes people stay for a long time and sometimes people leave and return. We have this fluid situation that exists,” the Minister pointed out.

She lauded programmes that the Ministry of Health has implemented to tackle mental health, including providing training and internal capacity building.



Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Honourable Dr Vindhya Persaud, addresses reporters during a news conference.

West Demerara Regional Hospital calls for responsible media reporting

-- following allegations of patient neglect

The management of the West Demerara Regional Hospital at Vreed en Hoop, West Coast Demerara has responded to a report published by “Big Smith News Watch” regarding a female patient who visited the hospital seeking a medical examination required by the Police after allegedly being abused.

According to hospital officials, the patient arrived at the Emergency Room (ER) with a Police medical form in hand, demanding urgent attention. At the time, a male doctor was attending to an eclamptic patient who had suffered three seizures earlier that day. Despite being occupied with this critical case, the doctor took the time to hear the woman’s concerns and then directed her to wait in the triage area for further assessment.

Shortly after, the patient re-entered the ER, while another doctor was attending to a one-year-old child with a dangerously high fever of 102°F. Once again, she was accommodated and assessed.

Medical staff determined that she had a two-day-old scratch on the dorsal aspect of her left hand, but displayed no other visible injuries. She was informed that immediate attention could not be provided due to the prioritisation of critical cases, but was assured that she would be assessed by a nurse in the triage area. Alternatively, she was given the option to return to the Outpatient Department (OPD) on another day.

The hospital’s management has therefore urged media practitioners to be responsible and to exercise greater caution in their reporting to avoid creating unnecessary bias against healthcare services. While every patient is important, the prioritisation of life-threatening emergencies is essential in a busy ER setting.

The West Demerara Regional Hospital said it remains committed to providing the highest level of care to all patients, while ensuring that critical cases receive immediate medical attention.



The West Demerara Regional Hospital at Vreed en Hoop, West Coast Demerara.



The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC).

GPHC terminates services of senior doctor after investigating stillbirth case

The management of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) has fired a senior doctor and suspended two others following an internal investigation into a recent stillbirth case.

The GPHC said the investigation was conducted thoroughly to ensure a comprehensive review of all aspects of care provided during the incident. The hospital's independent review panel determined that the managing doctors did not adhere to the required medical protocols and thereafter made several recommendations.

These recommendations have been accepted and implemented by GPHC's management and included the termination of a senior doctor who had oversight of the shift and stillbirth case, and whose failure to supervise contributed to breaches in protocol. The other recommendation was the suspension of two doctors, who had senior oversight of the case, for 28 days.

The hospital administration has since met with the patient and her relatives to provide a full update on the investigation's outcome and the corrective actions taken.

“The family has indicated their satisfaction with the measures implemented. GPHC deeply regrets that this incident occurred and acknowledges the impact on the affected family. We reaffirm our commitment to continuous improvement, accountability,

and upholding the highest standards of patient care. The hospital will continue to take all necessary steps to prevent similar occurrences in the future,” the hospital management said.



Chairman, Board of Directors, Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC),
Dr Leslie Ramsammy

Stern consequences for any GPHC staff involved in misconduct

-- Board Chairman

Chairman of the Board of Directors the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), Dr Leslie Ramsammy, has reaffirmed its zero-tolerance policy for inappropriate behaviour among staff, warning that severe consequences will follow any failure to uphold professional standards.

The comment was made by Dr Ramsammy following the GPHC’s decisive action against senior medical personnel following an incident involving the delivery of a baby. A senior doctor, who had served the hospital for several years was fired, while two other senior doctors were suspended.

Dr Ramsammy, in a letter, emphasised that the case demonstrated a clear lapse in responsibility by senior staff members. He commended the hospital’s management for their swift and transparent investigation into the matter. “The Board insists that where there is evidence of inappropriate behaviour by staff, there will be no tolerance and there will be severe consequences,” he said.

The GPHC has long maintained high operational standards with the majority of its staff, delivering compassionate and high-quality care aligned with international best practices. Dr Ramsammy took the

opportunity to commend these healthcare professionals for their dedication and service to the thousands of patients the hospital serves.

While acknowledging that the actions taken cannot undo the distress experienced by the affected family, the Board Chairman expressed hope that the disciplinary measures would provide some relief. He also extended its gratitude to the family for their

co-operation throughout the investigation, which helped bring closure to the unfortunate incident.

The hospital's leadership reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing strict professional standards and ensuring accountability among all staff members, reinforcing that any deviation from these standards will result in firm disciplinary action.

GPHC hosts 2nd Annual Research Day



Some of the attendees at the Second Annual Research Day Event hosted by the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC).

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently attended the Second Annual Research Day activity hosted by the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). The event saw scores of local surgeons in attendance at the one-day event held at the Pegasus Corporate Suites in Kingston, Georgetown.

While highlighting the ongoing transformational changes in health care

across Guyana, Dr Anthony credited the GPHC's Surgical Team for their leadership and innovations in advancing surgical care at Guyana's main referral hospital.

"You (GPHC) of course are our leading hospital and you have been pioneering a number of innovations, surgeries and a number of firsts that we have seen over the last year," he said.

The Minister informed those present of the six new regional hospitals which will be commissioned this year. This he said will enable an increase in operating theatres for

advanced surgical care in the various administration regions.

Dr Anthony said the GPHC and other regional public health institutions will soon be transitioning from paper-based to electronic health records, a much-anticipated move to improve patient data management and continuity of care for every patient.

The Minister said he is optimistic that Guyana's health care will continue to grow, adding that the future looks promising as new initiatives and international partnerships are developed to elevate the standard of care in the country.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, speaking at the GPHC's Second Annual Research Day event.



Over 200 benefit from health fair in observance of World Cancer Day 2025



Coordinator for Cancer Services, Dr Shanique Greaves, delivering remarks at the health fair.

More than 200 individuals took advantage of free healthcare services at a health fair organised by the Ministry of Health in observance of World Cancer Day 2025. The event, held at the Square of the Revolution in Georgetown, provided a range of essential

health screenings and services aimed at early detection, prevention and overall well-being. Attendees were able to access Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) Screening and pap smears, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, breast examinations, random blood sugar (RBS) and blood pressure testing, contraceptive implants, and a blood donation drive, among other critical healthcare services.

The initiative was part of the Health Ministry's ongoing efforts to promote public health awareness and encourage early intervention in the fight against cancer and other non-communicable diseases.



A patient accessing vaccination services.