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HEALTH Record

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President Ali commissions \$6.6B Diamond Regional Hospital

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, on June 8, officially commissioned the \$6.6 billion state-of-the-art Diamond Regional Hospital, East Bank Demerara, a landmark facility designed to deliver world-class healthcare services to thousands of Guyanese residents.

Built to meet Chinese, British and American healthcare standards, the hospital reflects the government's ongoing commitment to modernising Guyana's healthcare system and expanding equitable access to quality medical care for all citizens.

The hospital, located along the rapidly developing East Bank Demerara corridor, features 75 beds; 24-hour emergency and laboratory services; state-of-the-art imaging technologies, including computed tomography (CT) scans; digital X-rays and ultrasound; and three surgical theatres.

It also houses specialised care units such as an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), High Dependency Unit (HDU), neonatal care, and outpatient clinics for internal medicine, surgery,

obstetrics, paediatrics, ophthalmology, audiology and dentistry.

President Ali said the hospital is a significant investment in the people of Guyana and part of a broader strategy to improve healthcare delivery, increase life expectancy and ensure every citizen can access efficient, comfortable and high-quality medical services. The initiative also includes substantial salary increases and benefits for healthcare workers as part of efforts to retain skilled professionals within the country.

"This is more than just a hospital, it is part of a transformative vision for healthcare in Guyana. It stands as a symbol of our dedication to equity, quality and innovation in the health sector," said the President.

He emphasised the role of women in the healthcare workforce and the integration of cutting-edge technology as key components of the health sector's advancement.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, outlined the strategic

rationale behind the facility's location, citing the rapid growth in housing and business along the East Bank Demerara, where over 40,000 residents were previously underserved due to the absence of any modern healthcare infrastructure in the area. The Health Minister stated that the hospital is designed not only to address current healthcare needs, but also to prepare for future challenges, including the management of non-communicable diseases and potential pandemics.

He added that the Diamond Regional Hospital represents a pivotal step in the government's long-term healthcare development strategy, aiming to build an interconnected, inclusive and responsive health system that meets the needs of all regions and communities across Guyana.

The facility is expected to stimulate economic growth in the region, creating employment opportunities and attracting medical talent. A trained workforce, comprising nursing assistants, patient care staff and specialists is already in place, alongside

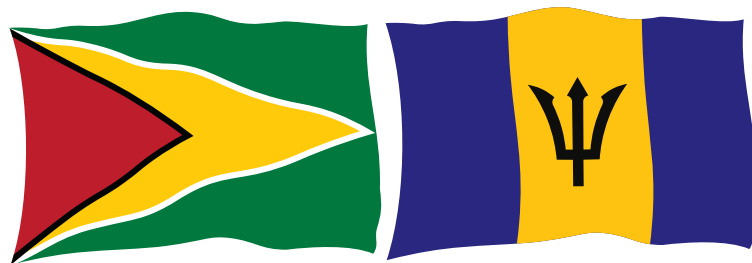
a leadership team overseeing key departments, such as, emergency care, internal medicine and pediatrics.

Also in attendance at the ceremony

were Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd) Honourable Mark Phillips; Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Mr Malcolm Watkins; other

government ministers; members of Parliament; and senior officials in the Ministry of Health.

Guyana, Barbados leading investment forum to strengthen regional healthcare



As part of Guyana's ongoing efforts to enhance its healthcare system, the European Union (EU), on June 2, launched a high-level Health and Pharmaceutical Investment Mission at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown.

The three-day event was aimed at connecting EU pharmaceutical and healthcare companies with local partners to explore investment and collaboration opportunities.

Funded by the EU, the initiative is a partnership with Guyana's private sector, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), the Guyana Office for Investment; the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association, and the Ministry of Health. Around 10 companies from several EU countries are part of the venture, including Spain, Austria, France, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Sweden, Italy and Ireland.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, said the mission has been a work in progress for some time, commencing just after COVID-19, when it was difficult for countries around the world to access medical

supplies, medication and vaccines.

The Minister recalled that, with the COVID-19 lockdown, came the challenge of the disruption of supply chains, particularly with moving resources from one country to another. "So from that experience, and out of COVID-19, we learned that we need to relocate the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals to countries or regions closer to where they need it," he said.

Dr Anthony explained that the EU then made the decision to set aside resources to bring companies to Guyana and Barbados to see what opportunities are available in these two countries to boost the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and strengthen health systems within the Caribbean region. He said both Guyana and Barbados are leading in the initiative.

The Pharmaceutical Equity for Global Public Health initiative, launched in 2022 by Guyana, Barbados and Rwanda, was also aimed at ensuring equitable access to medicines and vaccines by strengthening local production and reducing dependence

on external supply chains.

In addition, in February 2025, a joint declaration was signed by the governments of Guyana, Barbados and Lithuania to co-operate in bringing drug regulators in the Caribbean to World Health Organisation (WHO) Level Three maturity.

"So we've laid the overall framework and the political will to get this done is at the highest level," said Dr Anthony. "His Excellency, our President Dr Irfaan Ali, has himself been leading on this, and he's been championing this because we recognise the challenges we went through during COVID-19. That is why we really would like to see a pharmaceutical sector being developed in the Caribbean, but more particularly in Guyana."

Ambassador of the EU Delegation in Guyana, Mr Rene Van Nes, in his opening remarks told participants that, over the three days, they will hear about the incredible opportunities for investment in Guyana, as one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

The EU Ambassador stated that, under the leadership of Guyana's President, and with the drive of the Minister of Health and his team to promote investments in the health sector with the construction of several hospitals, Guyana is truly positioning itself for a future where it meets the healthcare needs of its people, as well as the needs of the wider region.

Chairman of the EU (Guyana)

Chamber of Commerce, Ms Alista Bishop, remarked that Guyana, with its ramping economic transformation, growing population and ambitious development agenda, presents a unique and timely opportunity for strategic investment and partnerships in the vibrant health sector.

Ms Bishop said the mission is a symbol of important investments, signalling deepening trust, shared goals and a

vision for a healthier future for all Guyanese. She said it brings together Europe's excellence and Guyana's potential.

"We welcome this focus on health and pharma because it aligns with Guyana's evolving healthcare landscape, with our national development priority, and with the EU's global commitment to sustainable development," said Ms Bishop.

Guyana taking bold steps to advance cardiovascular care

-Health Minister



The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) has successfully hosted the 2025 Cardiology Symposium at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Georgetown, bringing together leading healthcare professionals, stakeholders and academic experts from across Guyana and the wider region for a day of dialogue, collaboration and innovation in cardiovascular medicine.

Delivering the feature address on June 7, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, underscored the government's unwavering commitment to improving healthcare outcomes, with specific focus on strengthening cardiovascular services nationwide.

The Minister said one of the key

achievements in the area of cardiology has been the implementation of the HEARTS programme, in line with recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO).

"We currently have HEARTS operational at 221 sites across the country, serving nearly 4,000 patients," he said. "This data indicates significantly better patient outcomes when using this model compared to traditional treatment approaches."

As part of the Ministry's strategy to decentralise and expand cardiology services, Minister Anthony announced the establishment of catheterization laboratories (cath labs) at three regional sites. "This expansion will bring critical diagnostic and interventional cardiology services closer to the

communities that need them most," he said.

The Minister also stressed the importance of continuous professional development, encouraging the nation's healthcare workers to pursue ongoing training and skills enhancement. "We want our healthcare providers to consistently upskill themselves so they can deliver the highest standard of care to patients," he said.

The GPHC Cardiology Symposium 2025 showcased Guyana's progressive approach to healthcare delivery and underscored the role of multidisciplinary collaboration and education in driving sustainable improvements in cardiovascular care.



11 persons with disabilities graduate from national vocational training programme

The Ministry of Health's Disability and Rehabilitation Services on June 5 hosted a graduation ceremony in honour of 11 individuals living with disabilities who completed the Vocational Skills Training Programme offered by the Open Door Centre, a division of the National Vocational Training Centre.

The event, held at the Ministry's boardroom on Brickdam, Georgetown, celebrated the resilience, determination and achievements of the graduates. They completed comprehensive training in several skill areas, including information technology, garment and craft, carpentry and joinery, electrical and electronics installation, and beauty care.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, delivering the feature address, applauded the graduates and the staff of the Open Door Centre for their commitment and perseverance. "We are indeed very pleased to

celebrate the success of these 11 graduates," said Minister Anthony. "This journey may have been challenging, but through perseverance, we can all see the remarkable results."

Over 300 individuals have graduated from this programme to date, many of whom are now employed, pursuing further education, or operating their own businesses. "That is the true value of a programme like this," he said.

The Minister underscored the importance of inclusive education and vocational training tailored to the specific needs of persons with disabilities. "It takes a special level of dedication to support these individuals," he said. "I commend the educators who ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn and grow."

He added that the Ministry of Health remains committed to supporting inclusive development and empowering persons with disabilities

through continued access to quality education, training and employment opportunities.

Director of Disability and Rehabilitation Services, Dr Ariana Mangar, who also delivered remarks, offered words of encouragement and pride to the graduates. "Today is not just a ceremony, it is a declaration that you have persevered, excelled and triumphed," she said.

"You leave here not only with certificates, but with unbreakable spirits and inspiring stories of strength. Inclusion is not charity, it is a right, and more than that, it is a gift to the nation," said Dr. Mangar.

Also in attendance were Principal Assistant Secretary in the Ministry, Ms Malkia Idal; Acting Manager of the Open Door Centre, Ms Erica Verwayne; and several staff members from the Centre.

Six of 12 new regional hospitals to be opened soon -VP Jagdeo

Vice President (VP), Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, has announced that six of 12 new regional hospitals planned for the healthcare sector improvement programme across Guyana are set to be commissioned soon. The Vice President made the comment while speaking at a press conference on June 7.

The six facilities are at Anna Regina in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam); De Kinderen in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara); Diamond and Enmore in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica); Bath in Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice); and Skeldon in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne).

One of them, the Diamond Regional Hospital, East Bank Demerara, was officially opened on June 8.

Dr Jagdeo, at the same time, also dismissed a comment from another political party, which has been promising “complete health reform,” describing it as lip service, particularly in the face of the government’s

ongoing delivery of tangible healthcare improvements.

He said the government has invested heavily in health infrastructure, training and equipment to decentralise services and improve access across all regions.

“We came into government under the tough circumstances of COVID-19, but we re-opened the country and we kept our people safe. Then, we crafted a plan, and right now, we have 12 new public hospitals that are under construction across this country that will change health care,” said Dr Jagdeo.

All of these institutions will have 24-hour accident and emergency services, 24-hour laboratories, a suite of imaging services, including ultrasound, digital X-Ray and computerized tomography (CT) scans, along with operating theatres and more, thereby eliminating long hours of travelling to access quality care.

Alongside these major facilities, the government has injected significant investments to improve healthcare delivery for residents residing in hinterland communities, with hospitals being constructed at Moruca, Region One (Barima-Waini); Kamarang,

Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni); Kato, Region Eight (Potaro-Siparuni); and Lethem, Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo).

Dr Jagdeo said government is not only focusing on infrastructure, but is also investing in smaller initiatives, such as, universal healthcare vouchers, eye testing vouchers, and cervical testing for women.

He noted that the Ministry of Health is implementing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system to modernise its healthcare delivery and improve patient care.

“All of these programmes are being done now,” said Dr Jagdeo, referring to the projects initiated under the current government.

He said Guyana, over the years, is aiming to become a major hub for modern healthcare services as a result of these strategic investments being facilitated by the government.



Diamond Regional Hospital an ‘investment in people’ -President Ali

Designed to meet international standards and outfitted with 24-hour emergency and laboratory services, the new Diamond Regional Hospital, East Bank Demerara is an investment in the people of Guyana.

This is the view of His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, who made the comment on June 8, while addressing a mammoth gathering of citizens, healthcare workers and other stakeholders at the commissioning ceremony for the new facility.

President Ali pointed out that the new hospital is among several massive investments that have been made to enhance the delivery of equitable healthcare services across the country.

“This is no small investment. This is an investment not in walls and equipment.

This is an investment in the people of Guyana, especially the people of the East Bank,” said Dr Ali.

“This is an investment that will ensure our women and children, our elderly, and our male folk all alike have a level of treatment here that is not based on income, that is not based on your status, and that is not based on where you’re from. This would be a level of service that is equivalent to any service you can pay for anywhere in Guyana.” The new hospital will see residents being able to access world-class health care with specialised services in internal medicine and surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, cardiology, mental health, and psychology.

Featuring its own oxygen plant, water-filtration system, advanced

diagnostics technology, 75 beds, three operating theatres and several intensive care units, the new hospital meets Chinese, British and American standards.

The facility also has wireless connectivity and advanced electronic technology, which aligns with the government’s vision to embrace a digital health care system.

“This investment brings to you quality service, efficient service, and equitable service. This is an investment in the people of our country, an investment that will increase the life expectancy of the citizens of our country, an investment that will give you comfort in which you receive medical care, and we must not take these investments lightly,” stated the President.



Human Capital

The President said the new hospital is a massive investment in human capital. “The investment we are making in infrastructure is also equally matched with the investment we are making in our nurses, in our human capital,” he said.

The government, he pointed out, has trained thousands of healthcare professionals in every category over the past five years. The aim is to ensure that the health sector has a motivated, skilled and competent workforce.

“We are adding technology to that workforce so we can build accountability in the system. We can build traceability in the system. We want our healthcare professionals to be supported with technology to make their jobs more efficient, and the citizens of the country to be supported with technology to ensure greater

accountability and transparency in the delivery of service,” said Dr Ali.

The President further outlined the government’s digital health plan, including the electronic health record system, as well as the digitisation of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. There are also plans to make Guyana a major health hub, attracting private investment, while ensuring equitable care for all Guyanese.

“We have a clearly defined strategy that will take us to 2030 and beyond, a strategy that would set our health sector as a global masterpiece, offering world-class services, but more importantly, a health sector that will also continue to incentivise private investment, because we want Guyana to be a major health hub.”

The President added that the development of Guyana’s healthcare system must provide economic and

investment opportunities, while also encouraging private sector investments.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, disclosed that the hospital employs 45 patient assistants, 50 nursing assistants, over 40 registered nurses, and nearly 70 physician staff and consultants.

“When we say that we’ll be delivering good quality care, we have the people who would be able to deliver that care in this hospital,” said Dr Anthony.

The Diamond Regional Hospital is the first of six new health facilities that will be commissioned in a wider programme that is being pursued by the government of Guyana to improve health care. The Diamond facility was constructed under a partnership with China’s Sinopharm International and China CAMC Engineering Company Limited.

Health Minister backs move to boost pharmaceutical capacity

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently participated in the opening ceremony of the European Union (EU) Health and Pharmaceutical Investment Mission event geared towards assessing potential partnerships and joint ventures to build regional pharmaceutical capacity.

The three-day event, which began on June 2, was held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, and brought together ten leading EU companies to explore investment opportunities and deepen collaboration with Guyana and the wider Caribbean health sectors.

The mission, organised in partnership with the EU Delegation, also facilitated engagements between European investors and local stakeholders, including the private sector, public agencies and regional companies.

As part of his address, Minister Anthony emphasised the urgency of developing local and regional health resilience in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are extremely pleased with the progress of this initiative. COVID-19 taught us how vulnerable small nations are to global supply chain disruptions. This mission is part of our broader effort to build stronger, more self-reliant health systems,” he said.

Minister Anthony cited the EU’s successful partnership with Rwanda as a model, noting the country’s advancement in regulatory systems and the attraction of European pharmaceutical manufacturers.



“Guyana and Barbados are co-leading this effort to create a similar ecosystem here in the Caribbean. Our goal is to localise manufacturing, strengthen regulation, and make our region a hub for pharmaceutical production and distribution,” Dr Anthony explained. He also referenced international advocacy efforts, including Guyana’s participation in the Kosovo meeting of Health Ministers, where Caribbean health leaders invited broader collaboration on this agenda. Also present at the opening ceremony were, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Mr Malcolm Watkins; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh; and other senior officials in the Ministry.



Guyana to transition to nine-valent HPV vaccine

-as part of cervical cancer elimination strategy

The Ministry of Health will soon transition from the quadrivalent to the nine-valent Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, a move that marks a

significant step toward the elimination of cervical cancer in the country.

This announcement was made by Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, during his keynote address at the Cardiology Symposium held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Georgetown, on June 7.

Dr Anthony underscored the Ministry of Health’s commitment to improving cancer prevention and treatment outcomes. He noted that the introduction of the nine-valent HPV vaccine will offer broader protection against HPV strains, thereby enhancing the country’s capacity to prevent cervical cancer.

“With vaccination coverage reaching 90 percent nationwide and sustained at that level, we are on the path to eliminating cervical cancer in Guyana,” said the Minister.

In addition to efforts targeting cervical cancer, Dr Anthony highlighted

advancements in prostate cancer management. These include the rollout of a programme offering Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) testing and biopsies, facilitating earlier detection and intervention.

The Minister revealed plans to establish a specialised oncology centre at the new maternal and paediatric hospital, in partnership with the US-based Mount Sinai Health System. This centre will provide comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services, significantly expanding the nation’s oncology care capabilities.



Health Minister restates commitment to voluntary blood donation



Minister Anthony hands over a certificate of appreciation to one of the country's top voluntary blood donors.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, in observance of World Blood Donor Day on June 14, joined the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) in celebrating the life-saving contributions of voluntary blood donors and outlining transformative advancements in Guyana's blood transfusion infrastructure.

The annual ceremony, held in collaboration with Massy Distribution, recognised the invaluable role of voluntary, unpaid blood donors in strengthening the nation's healthcare system.

In his address, Minister Anthony commended the donors for their selfless contribution to saving lives. "Blood cannot be manufactured. Our health system relies on the generosity of voluntary donors and, today, we honour your selfless contribution and the lives you help save," he said.

Dr Anthony highlighted significant improvements to the blood transfusion system, including the introduction of

automated processing technologies to increase efficiency, and the enhanced capability to produce and manage various blood components tailored to diverse medical needs.

As part of efforts to expand access and improve services, the Ministry has increased the number of blood collection sites to seven, with five additional sites scheduled to be opened by the end of August. These upgrades are crucial to meeting the growing demand for safe blood, with 11,225 units collected in 2024.

Despite last year's \$450 million budgetary allocation to the NBTS, the Minister emphasised that the value of the entity is measured in lives saved. He underscored the Ministry's commitment to rigorous screening protocols, ensuring all donated blood meets the highest safety standards.

Proper handling and disposal of contaminated blood remain key components of this safety framework. In a move to improve access to care in remote communities, the Ministry is actively testing drone delivery systems capable of transporting blood supplies to areas up to 200 kilometers away, a significant step forward in emergency response capabilities.

As Guyana's healthcare infrastructure evolves, new operating theatres in district hospitals and modern blood banking facilities are being integrated into ongoing hospital construction projects, ensuring preparedness for increased demand in surgical and emergency services.

Joining the observance, Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) Representative to Guyana, Dr Kim Eva Dickson, reaffirmed the organisation's support for voluntary blood donation. She also noted the alignment with the 2025 global theme: "Give Blood, Give Hope -- Together We Save Lives."

PAHO/WHO's collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the NBTS has resulted in key advancements, including the implementation of a five-year strategic plan and over 60 new standard operating procedures, informed by a recent international expert review.

The ceremony concluded with a strong call to action for all citizens to become regular voluntary blood donors.

Community engagement and donor appreciation will remain central to building a sustainable and resilient blood donation system. "We salute the dedication of our healthcare professionals and volunteers and invite every Guyanese to join this life-saving movement," added Minister Anthony.

‘We can prevent complications, reduce need for rehab’

-Health Minister

The Ministry of Health officially launched Rehab Week 2025 on June 20, unveiling a suite of tools and expanded services aimed at modernising rehabilitation care across Guyana.

The ceremony, held at the Ministry’s Boardroom on Brickdam, Georgetown, was led by Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony. In his keynote address, the Minister introduced three major resources designed to transform the country’s rehabilitation services:

Guyana Rehab App: a comprehensive mobile platform, offering personalised exercise plans, progress tracking, appointment booking and easy access to nationwide rehabilitation services.

Stroke Handbook: a user-friendly guide to help patients, caregivers and healthcare workers identify early signs of stroke, manage recovery and support reintegration into daily life.

Amputee Handbook: Guyana’s first national resource for individuals living with limb loss, providing step-by-step guidance from pre-operative care to long-term prosthetic use and rehabilitation.

These initiatives form part of the Ministry’s broader strategy to enhance the accessibility, consistency, and effectiveness of rehabilitation services, particularly for vulnerable and underserved communities.

“If we manage this as a continuum, we can address the root causes and prevent more people from needing rehabilitation in the first place,” Dr Anthony said.

The Minister emphasised the strong connection between chronic disease management and rehabilitation needs, underscoring the government’s commitment to reducing complications from diabetes, hypertension, and stroke.

The Minister also highlighted efforts to improve access to assistive devices, revealing that the Ministry distributed nearly 1,000 wheelchairs last year and has procured 3,000 more to be provided free of cost in 2025.

Director of Rehabilitation and Disability Services, Dr Ariana Mangar, described rehabilitation as an essential pillar of Guyana’s evolving healthcare system. She noted that the health sector is undergoing significant transformation through digital innovation, expanded service delivery and a focus on patient empowerment and quality care.

Other attendees included Director of Primary Healthcare Services, Dr Ertenisa Hamilton; Principal Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Ms Malkia Ida; and other senior officials and staff members of the Ministry.





Guyana launches first mental health court

Guyana launched its first mental health court on June 26 to improve access to justice and treatment for people with mental health conditions.

The court, which will use therapeutic jurisprudence (TJ), will operate out of the Georgetown Magistrates' Court.

TJ is a philosophy that determines how rules, procedures and the behaviour of legal professionals impact the psychological well-being of individuals involved in the judicial system.

The court was established through support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States Embassy, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, and the Judiciary of Guyana.

During the opening ceremony at the Supreme Court in Georgetown, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Honourable Mr Anil Nandlall, highlighted that the judiciary must be complimented for taking a bold step to establish a specialised court that seeks to ensure individuals living with mental health illness are afforded the appropriate treatment and support.

The Attorney General said the court's establishment aligns with the government's policy to improve the lives of persons living with mental health illness, as well as to reduce the prison population and incidences of recidivism.

"The opening of the mental health court is an outstanding testimony to the evolution and maturity of our society to holistically address the issue of mental health in Guyana. Particularly, this court will help us to deal with defendants whose mental illness may have contributed to the commission of a crime," said Mr Nandlall.

He noted that it complements the policy groundworks, philosophy and provisions of the Mental Health Protection and Promotion Act 2022.

"This is only the beginning. We may have to do legislation that will govern how the court operates. And we may have to make rules that will regulate the procedural aspects of the court," said Mr Nandlall. "I want to assure the judiciary that the government of Guyana, and in particular the Attorney General's Chambers, remain steadfastly ready to assist in that regard."

Mr Vockel said the piloting of the court is the beginning of a new judicial process and a new era in how Guyana responds to mental health injustice with compassion, hope and dignity. He noted that UNICEF stands proudly with the government and all its partners on this momentous occasion.

"We are honoured to have provided the technical assistance and funding to help make this court a reality and to support the role of the justice system that is truly inclusive, rehabilitative and child-sensitive," said Mr Vockel.

Chancellor of the Judiciary, Ms Yonette Cummings-Edwards and Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh, also spoke at the event.



Health Minister meets with Spanish Ambassador to Guyana

-health sector partnership explored

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on June 3, received a courtesy call from Ambassador of Spain to Guyana, Ms Javier Maria Carbajosa Sanchez, at the Ministry of Health on Brickdam, Georgetown.

Immediately following the courtesy call, the two officials used the opportunity to discuss areas of mutual interest and explored opportunities for collaboration in the health sector.

Also in attendance during the meeting were representatives of Spanish companies participating in the European Union (EU)-led Health and Pharmaceutical Investment Mission.

The mission is aimed at connecting EU pharmaceutical and healthcare companies with local partners to explore investment and collaboration opportunities.

A brighter future begins at birth

-mothers praise Newborn Cash Grant support

One of many families across Guyana receiving support through the government's Newborn Cash Grant.

Just about three months after its launch, government's Newborn Cash Grant initiative is already transforming lives across Guyana, bringing hope, relief and a stronger sense of security to thousands of families.

Launched on March 8 at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Georgetown, the initiative provides \$100,000 for every child born to a Guyanese mother on or after January 1, 2025.

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, who has led a people-first development agenda since taking office, described the grant as a long-term investment in the future of Guyana and a commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders.

Mothers who have already benefitted from the programme shared their gratitude and explained how the grant has positively impacted their lives.

Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica) resident Ms Aranza Krishna said she is whole-heartedly thankful to the government and the Ministry of Health for this initiative. "This grant has benefitted me a lot, because it helped me to buy formula, which is very expensive; pampers which are very expensive. And it also helped me to save, because instead of taking out that money from my pocket, the government made that possible for me to be able to save," she said.

Another beneficiary, Ms Hasyah Dodson, also from Region Four, expressed similar sentiments. "It helped me to get certain things, to put in an early savings for the baby," she pointed out.

Ms Dodson further stressed the importance of continued assistance, particularly for young mothers who may lack a strong support system. "I think that the government should continue giving, especially in relation to young mothers that do not have the support," she noted.

With more than 17,000 births projected for 2025, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring each newborn receives this financial start in life.

The initiative, which was first announced during the presentation of the 2025 National Budget, is part of a broader effort to enhance family welfare and social development. In total, approximately \$1.3 billion will be allocated annually to facilitate the grant.



New, enhanced infrastructure in health sector boosts service delivery nationwide

-Health Minister

With a number of new health centres having been built and several new hospitals on the horizon, Guyana's medical landscape has seen a sweeping transformation.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, during his address at this year's Cardiology Symposium held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Georgetown on June 7, highlighted the remarkable progress made within the country's healthcare system over the past few years.

"A lot of the transformation that we were looking at was how do we improve the physical infrastructure across the health system," the Minister said. "We started out by looking at all of our health facilities. And it might surprise you that we have more than 400 health facilities across this country. We have a whole subset of the district hospitals, regional hospitals, and of course, the Georgetown Public

Hospital Corporation (GPHC)."

Healthcare Delivery

Emphasising the magnitude of the investment, he said, "We spent billions of dollars in improvement. And within the last three years, in addition to improving almost every single health facility in this country, we have built 25 new health centres and hospitals in different parts of Guyana."

Minister Anthony also detailed the government's push to modernise healthcare delivery in remote regions.

"We will also look at the interior of Guyana, and we currently have under construction new hospital at Moruca, Region One (Barima-Waini), at Kato, Region Eight (Potaro-Siparuni) and Lethem, Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo)," he said, adding that the Ministry of Health has further plans to develop the Bartica Hospital in Region Seven

(Cuyuni-Mazaruni).

He assured residents that these new facilities will be better equipped than ever before, serving more people across all rural parts of the country.

"All of these facilities will also have CT (computerized tomography) scans and other types of imaging, and will be more advanced than the current facilities that we have. We will see, in a couple of years, a total transformation of the hospital part of the whole sector, and all of these places will be interconnected, so that if we need a transferral, it will be done quite seamlessly," Dr Anthony said.

All of this comes as the Ministry of Health gears up to open five newly constructed hospitals across Regions Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) and Four (Demerara-Mahaica), starting with the Diamond Region Hospital, East Bank Demerara.

Chronic Diseases

On the topic of chronic diseases, particularly heart conditions, Minister Anthony acknowledged the growing need for proactive and preventative care. “In terms of chronic disease, we have spent quite a lot of resources in terms of focusing on chronic and non-communicable diseases,” he said.

Additionally, in an effort to modernise cardiac care, Guyana continues to

make strides in the HEARTS protocol, an initiative by the World Health Organisation (WHO) adopted by Guyana in 2023.

“HEARTS is more, apart from giving more effective medication, it’s also about a lifestyle change, where you have to look at the habits of people, you have to encourage them to exercise, and there is something now that is being promoted, called a lifestyle loss. So, if we are able to introduce that

successfully to our patients, then we will be able to manage their conditions,” the Minister pointed out.

Currently, the country has established HEARTS at 201 sites across Guyana, accommodating close to 4,000 patients. The system is part of a broader national strategy to improve heart health, prevent complications and ultimately reduce the country’s cardiovascular disease burden.

Health Minister, Swedish Ambassador talk health sector collaboration in Guyana

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently welcomed Non-Resident Ambassador of Sweden to Guyana, Mr Anders Bengtcén, during a courtesy on June 4 at the Ministry of Health on Brickdam, Georgetown.

As part of his delegation, Ambassador Bengtcén was accompanied by Trade Commissioner of Sweden for Brazil, Suriname and Guyana, Mr Andreas Rentner.

Mr Bengtcén is currently visiting Guyana to participate in the European Union (EU)-led Health and Pharmaceutical Investment Mission.

During the meeting, the Minister and the Ambassador engaged in discussions on areas of mutual interest and explored potential avenues for collaboration within the health sector.



Health Minister, Chiesi Foundation discuss respiratory medicine in Guyana

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on June 9 welcomed a delegation from the Chiesi Foundation, as part of their ongoing partnership to strengthen respiratory healthcare in Guyana.

The Chiesi Foundation, based in Italy, is a philanthropic organization which aims to support local development programs to reduce neonatal mortality rates and improve the health of patients suffering from chronic respiratory diseases. The visiting delegation included Programme Director, Dr Mario Scuri, and Programme Manager Ms Federica Cassera. They were accompanied by two pulmonary Fellows, currently supported through the organisation's global Fellowship Initiative.

The Chiesi Foundation has been a vital partner in Guyana's respiratory health journey since the launch of the Spirometry Programme at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) in 2013. Their continued support has included international training for medical professionals and targeted fellowships aimed at building local capacity in pulmonary medicine.

During the courtesy visit to the Minister, the Chiesi team

shared plans to expand their efforts by deploying Fellows to regional hospitals and health centres across the country. They also discussed initiating new training programmes to support the development of respiratory care services in underserved areas.

Also present during the meeting were Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh; and Respiratory Medicine and Allergy Specialist, GPHC, and Head of the Global Access to Sustainable Pulmonology (GASP), Dr Waleema Bacchus-Ali.



Health Minister dismisses attempts to undermine health sector's progress

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has strongly rebuffed claims regarding a new on-call policy for doctors, dismissing the allegations as an attempt to overshadow the government's achievements in the health sector.

In response to a recent politically motivated article published by an online vlog, which claimed that doctors are frustrated, the Minister issued a sharp rebuke. "We just opened a \$6.6 billion hospital with more than 70

doctors working there, and some unknown persons are quoted as having some grievances? This is obviously a ploy to distract from a tangible achievement in healthcare," he said.

Dr Anthony added that, if the complaints are legitimate, the individuals involved are welcome to engage the Ministry of Health's Human Resource Department, rather than going public anonymously.



The report described the policy as a new measure, but Minister Anthony clarified that this is not the case. “This is not a new policy. Doctors are required to do calls as part of their routine duties,” he explained.

The \$6.6 billion facility mentioned by the minister is the Diamond Regional Hospital, which was officially commissioned by government on June 8.

The new hospital offers persons access to world-class health care with specialised services in internal medicine and surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics cardiology, mental health, and psychology.

Featuring its own oxygen plant, water-filtration system, advanced diagnostics technology, 75 beds, three

operating theatres and several intensive care units, the new hospital meets Chinese, British and American standards.

The facility also has wireless connectivity and advanced electronic systems, which aligns with the government’s vision to embrace a digital health care system. The new hospital employs 45 patient assistants, 50 nursing assistants, over 40 registered nurses, and nearly 70 physician staff and consultants.

Six of the 12 regional hospitals that government plans to construct are set to open this year.

With the hospital at Diamond already commissioned, five more facilities are under construction at Lima Sands,

Essequibo Coast; De Kinderen, West Coast Demerara; Bath, West Coast Berbice; Enmore, East Coast Demerara; and No. 75 Village, Corentyne, Berbice.

The 12 new regional hospitals are expected to employ approximately 8,000 persons.

In Guyana’s 2025 budget, a substantial allocation of \$143.2 billion has been earmarked for the health sector. This funding aims to expand and modernise the healthcare system, with a focus on improving regional and specialty facilities, procuring medical equipment and supplies and training healthcare professionals. The budget also includes voucher programmes to assist individuals with the cost of basic health tests.

GPHC brings leading experts together for landmark 2025 cardiology forum

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) successfully hosted the 2025 Cardiology Symposium on June 7 at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Georgetown, bringing together top medical minds to share insights and promote collaboration in the field of cardiovascular medicine.

The symposium featured a diverse panel of leading healthcare professionals who delivered engaging and informative presentations on key areas of cardiovascular care. The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange and highlighted recent advancements in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of heart-related conditions.



Among the featured speakers was Nephrologist Dr Baldeo Singh, who delivered the prestigious Annual Doobay Memorial Lecture on Cardiorenal Syndrome (CRS). Dr Singh presented a comprehensive overview of the pathophysiology of CRS, citing its links to haemodynamic changes, neurohormonal activation, inflammation, and venous congestion. He identified heart failure, chronic kidney disease, and hypertension as major contributing factors.

Founder and Director of Stride 592, Ms Onika Jervis, in a dynamic presentation on preventative cardiology, introduced the audience to the “Soca Heart” campaign -- an initiative adapted from the earlier Stride programme.

Ms Jervis emphasised the importance of regular physical activity for heart health and engaged attendees with an interactive session to underscore her message. The campaign encourages public participation in weekly walking and running events to reduce cardiovascular risk.

Head of the Advanced Heart Failure Unit at Ramón y Cajal University Hospital in Madrid, Spain, Dr Jesus V.

Alvarez, explored the complexities of Postpartum Cardiomyopathy (PPCM), a rare but life-threatening condition affecting women during the final month of pregnancy, or within five months postpartum.

He detailed various causes, including genetic, hormonal and autoimmune factors, while noting risk groups such as women of African descent and those with preeclampsia, or multiple pregnancies.

Other notable presentations were delivered by Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist, Dr Suruj Harrichand (Left Accessory Pathway); Heart Surgeon, Dr Pradeep Ramkoomar (Surgical Approach to Vascular Heart Disease); Interventional Cardiologist, Dr Michael Chin (Management of STEMI in Regional Hospitals); and Dr Reshmi Nauth (Management of Heart Failure).

Representatives from pharmaceutical companies Apotex, a Canadian pharmaceutical corporation, and Jamieson, Canada's largest manufacturer and distributor of natural health products, were also in attendance, underscoring the

importance of multi-sectoral support for cardiovascular care.

Delivering the keynote address, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving healthcare services, especially in cardiovascular health. He highlighted the ongoing rollout of the HEARTS Programme, a World Health Organisation (WHO) backed initiative aimed at reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease through evidence-based protocols and wide-reaching public health interventions.

“HEARTS is currently operational at 221 sites across the country,” Dr Anthony said, praising the collaborative work between the Ministry of Health, healthcare providers and international partners in strengthening Guyana's cardiology landscape.

The Minister said the 2025 Cardiology Symposium stands as a testament to GPHC's dedication to fostering innovation, professional development and patient-centered care in the fight against heart disease.



Gov't advancing bold, people-centred agenda in healthcare system

-Dr Mangar tells UN forum



The government of Guyana has been pursuing programmes and policies to ensure access to key services for all Guyanese, including Indigenous persons living with disabilities, and continues to do so.

This is the view of Director of Disability and Rehabilitation Services at the Ministry of Health, Dr Ariane Mangar, whomade the comment during her address to the 18th Session of the United Nations (UN) Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in New York, in the US from June 10-12.

Dr Mangar noted that, under His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali's administration, the government is advancing a bold people-centred agenda and inclusion across every region, school and household.

"For the first time, the disability needs assessment was conducted, and this was led by the National Commission on Disability, and it has gathered comprehensive data for persons with disabilities in our remote and hinterland region," she said.

With this, Dr Mangar noted that their voices are shaping national policy and guiding the placement of rehabilitation staff, assistive devices, and outreach services, even as special education officers are being trained for regional deployment.

Additionally, new schools are being built in remote areas, and children are receiving assistive devices in their own communities

"How is this possible? Through climate action, through our Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), 15 percent of Guyana's carbon credit revenues are being reinvested in indigenous communities, bringing electricity, powering health posts and providing rehabilitation equipment and technology in classrooms," said Dr Mangar.

Giving an example, Dr Mangar pointed out that a young girl from a remote region, who was once isolated by hearing loss, now thrives in school, thanks to the government's free hearing aid programme and is able to attend school and hear her peers and teachers.

Dr Mangar was part of a Guyana delegation to the conference led by First Lady, Ms Arya Ali. The team also included Programme Manager, Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities, Mr Ganesh Singh; and Director of Projects, Policy & Public Affairs, Office of the First Lady, Mr Ravin Singh.

The conference was held under the theme, "Enhancing public awareness of the rights and contributions of persons with disabilities for social development leading up to the Second World Summit for Social Development."

Health Minister, JIPA Network discuss healthcare partnerships

A delegation from the US-based JIPA Network has met with Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, to

explore strategic partnerships aimed at advancing the country's healthcare goals.

The JIPA team, led by Chief Growth Officer, Dr Wiebe Boer, along with Medical Director, Dr Ivor Crandon, discussed collaborative opportunities to support and strengthen local health systems. The meeting was held on June 4.

JIPA Network collaborates with medical experts to provide patients with access to health care, critical medical services and elective procedures delivered in several countries that include the US, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Health Minister urges preventative care for rehab patients

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has urged chronic-illness patients to take their treatment regularly, saying the amputation of a leg of those suffering from diabetes, for instance, may not be necessary.

The Minister made the comment on June 20 as part of the Ministry of Health's activities in observance of Rehab Week 2025. He said patients

need to adopt a proper diet, as part of their daily routine, due to the many complications of diabetes, adding that they also need to do regular exercise and have checkups done often.

Dr Anthony noted that some complications of diabetes include blindness, because if the retina goes bad and the patients do not go for a checkup in order to manage themselves with medication, diet and exercise, they can develop further problems.

The Minister pointed out that a lot of people in Guyana are diabetic and emphasised that, with proper care and the right type of diet and medication, they could reduce or avoid complications. He said the Ministry of Health is working on the preventative side because they want people to avoid losing a leg or limb due to uncontrollable diabetes.

Significant Progress

Dr Anthony said the Ministry of Health has made strides, including the launching of the universal health vouchers for people to get specialised tests to detect varying illnesses. "Much is being done to improve rehab and the

other available services," he said.

He disclosed that the Ministry distributed 1,000 wheelchairs last year and, for 2025, they have acquired 3,000 more, which will be distributed across the country free of cost.

Dr Anthony said that for those with hearing impairment, previously they had to buy a hearing aid at a cost of \$65,000.00 and the batteries had to be replaced every two to three weeks.

He said the Ministry has launched a modern hearing aid that is rechargeable and is free of cost and will be sourcing 1,900 this year for distribution. Some 1,000 hearing aids were distributed last year to those who needed them.

The Minister stated that even schoolchildren benefitted from this initiative, via the school-health programme where scanning was done. This will be extended into the newer hospitals that are opening across the country and will include a specialised booth for people to have their ears checked.

Dr Anthony said the Ministry has done a lot of work in speech therapy for children with autism and for those with prosthetics. “We are trying to make prostheses free for those who need it, since it costs between \$350,000.00 to \$450,000.00 for lower-limb prostheses, and it will be done at the Ptolemy Reid Rehab Centre,” he explained.

He said they will cater for 200 people, and it will cost \$90 million for that project which will give people their mobility back. According to him, once launched, the service will be maintained.

Resources for patients

Rehab Week 2025 was spearheaded by the Disability and Rehabilitation Services Department of the Ministry of Health and observed under the theme, “From Rehab Resilience: Empowering Recovery through Movement and Strength.”

As part of the activities, the department used the opportunity to launch a rehab exercise app, a stroke survivor’s handbook and an amputation booklet.

The exercise app is designed to help people recover after minor injuries, as well as those individuals who are simply looking to enhance their daily physical capabilities and prevent future issues. Using 2D images, it also offers a curated library of safe, effective and easy-to-follow exercises from neck to ankle, with clear instructions.

The amputation booklet provides amputee patients with a comprehensive guide that details how to manage life pre- and post-amputation, so as to help with the successful use of a prosthetic limb. It also provides guidance to doctors, caregivers and patients on expectations before and after amputation.



Information on what is amputation, causes of amputation and emotional adjustments are also among the key contents of the booklet.

The handbook for stroke survivors was created by the Palms Neurological Rehabilitation Department with the general population in mind, while aiming to provide information on the various aspects of recovery following a stroke.

The handbook advocates the existence of a specific clinic in Guyana designed to offer a range of services, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counselling and nutrition services for stroke survivors.

Director of the Disability and Rehabilitation Services Department, Dr Ariane Mangar, pointed out that rehabilitation is not just about recovery. “It’s about reclaiming power, independence and dignity. It’s about moving beyond the limits of injury, disability, or illness and forging a new path of strength, one guided by skilled care, compassionate support, and a system that believes in every individual’s potential to thrive,” she

said.

She said the week of activities has always served as a time to raise national awareness of disability, rehabilitation services and the professions that make this work possible. Across the country, there are now 33 public rehabilitation departments, offering essential services, such as, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, orthotics and prosthetics, audiology, speech therapy and vocational training for young adults with disabilities.

“Building the future of rehabilitation in Guyana is no longer a side service. It is a pillar of our health system,” said Dr Mangar.

She stressed that the department stands firmly in upholding its mission, which speaks to the expansion of access in every region, including hinterland communities, as well as raising the standard of care across every rehab department, integrating technology, research, and training into everyday practice, thereby empowering people to live full, active and meaningful lives.

Health Minister engages private healthcare agencies on diagnostics, partnerships

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, along with Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh, recently met with senior executives from Abbott Point of Care, Massy Distribution and American Hospital Supply at the Ministry of Health on Brickdam, Georgetown.

The meeting was held on June 4 and the visiting delegation included Commercial Manager at Abbott Point of Care, Mr Steven Quiroga; Chief Executive Officer of American Hospital Supply, Mr Spenser Andersen; Regional Team Lead (Diagnostics at Massy Distribution), Mr Anton Akow; Director at Massy Distribution, Mr Bhashkaranand Singh; Coordinator (Pharmaceutical Division at Massy), Ms

Neelam Dharmo; Medical Technologist at Massy, Ms Kimberly Pyneandy; and Product Specialist at Massy Distribution, Ms Glenissa Derrell.

During the meeting, the team introduced the I-STAT Point of Care system and delivered a presentation outlining its potential benefits for the public health system.

The discussions also explored avenues for expanding collaboration in areas of mutual interest, with the shared objective of strengthening the delivery of healthcare services.

Health Minister delivers message on faith, national progress at Eid Ul-Adha event

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on June 6, delivered a powerful message connecting the spiritual significance of the occasion of Eid Ul-Adha with the country's ongoing strides in health and development.

Addressing staff members of various departments within the Ministry, Dr Anthony reflected on the essence of sacrifice and shared responsibility in shaping a prosperous and compassionate society. He also emphasised the timeless lessons of obedience, introspection and unwavering faith. The event was held at the Ministry of Health on Brickdam, Georgetown.

Minister Anthony pointed out that faith should inspire, not only personal devotion, but also collective action. "In a time of prosperity, especially in regions like ours, it is essential to ask ourselves what we are willing to give up for the betterment of our community. True belief must be reflected in our actions, in the values we uphold, and in the development paths we choose," he said.



Turning to the country's health sector transformation, the Minister shared significant progress made in recent years.

Among the achievements he noted were the construction of over 25 new health centres in just three years; the introduction of digital X-rays and advanced computerized tomography (CT) scanning technologies across hospitals; the opening of six new state-of-the-art hospitals, with a strong focus on modern medical infrastructure; and ongoing partnerships with international hospitals and universities to upskill local medical professionals.

"These advancements are a testament to our national

commitment to enhancing the well-being of every citizen. Healthcare is not just a service. It is a pillar of dignity and human development," said the Minister.

Dr Anthony urged citizens to reflect on the deeper meaning of Eid ul-Adha. "Let us recommit to values of compassion, service and sacrifice, not only in religious observance, but also in our efforts to build a healthier, more educated, and more just society," he said.

The event also included prayers and recitations from the Holy Quran, as well as renewed calls for unity, reflection and sustained efforts toward national development.



Health Minister embarks on major outreach to Region Nine communities

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has been conducting a number of public meetings during the month of June with residents in Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo), as part of a broader initiative to connect with communities across the region.

The outreach initiative is part of the government's ongoing commitment to engaging directly with communities and strengthening local development.

Annai, Surama, Wowetta & Rupertee

One June 10, the Minister made his first stop and conducted public meetings with residents of Annai,

Surama, Wowetta and Rupertee.

During this outreach session, the Minister highlighted the ongoing growth and development efforts in the hinterland and reaffirmed government's commitment to improving healthcare across the country.



Residents of Annai, Surama, Wowetta and Rupertee.

Rewa, Crash Water & Apoteri

The Minister continued his outreach, meeting with residents in Rewa, Crash Water and Apoteri, on June 11.

During this visit, Dr Anthony highlighted major improvements in the health sector, from the training of local health workers to the expansion of services through telemedicine and decentralised care.

He shared several success stories that reflect the government's broader investment in, not only health, but also education, infrastructure and other sectors.

The Minister also praised residents for their active role in selecting trusted individuals for health training, emphasising the importance of community-led development.



Residents of Rewa, Crash Water and Apoteri during the meeting.

Kwatamang, Aranaputa & Yakarinta

The ministerial outreach continued on June 12 with residents of Kwatamang, Aranaputa and Yakarinta. During the meeting, the Minister reflected on the government's ongoing dedication to direct community engagement and the promotion of local development.



Residents of Kwatamang, Aranaputa and Yakarinta.

Mon Repos fire victims receive new home from MoM initiative

After losing their home to a recent fire, a family from Mon Repos, East Coast Demerara now has a new place to call their home, thanks to a Men on Mission (MoM) initiative. The initiative was launched in 2022 by His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali to give men a platform to create social change in society by helping those less fortunate.

The principal recipient, Ms Sabita Ramlochan, who was overwhelmed by the government's gesture, said that her family will now be comfortably accommodated in the new two-bedroom house. She praised the efforts of everyone who was involved in completing their home.

"I want to thank the government for the new home which you built for us. I am so happy and grateful for the new home for us," she said.

During a simple ceremony on June 21, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, explained that the MoM initiative offered to build a home for the family after learning of the Ramlochan's tragic circumstances.

"Of course, none of this would have been possible without the President starting this programme. He started this programme because he realised that there are people across our country who are affected and sometimes, they are overlooked," Minister Anthony said.





Over 70 families have benefited from the construction of new homes over the last two and a half years through the MoM initiative.

The 2025 budget allocated \$700 million to the MoM programme to expand its reach and enhance the lives of many individuals. Some \$395 million will be used to build over 50 houses for vulnerable groups countrywide.

Chief Fire Officer, Mr Gregory Wickham; MoM's Committee Member, Lt. Colonel Bhageshwar Murlu; and other representatives from the Ministry of Health and MoM were also present at the ceremony.

Guyana celebrates International Yoga Day with focus on health, unity & partnership

Calm, relaxation and healthy living were some of the guiding themes being highlighted at this year's celebration of the International Day of Yoga.

Hosted on June 14 at the Cliff Anderson Sports Hall, Georgetown, the event was celebrated under the theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health." More than 200

Guyanese and yoga enthusiasts came out for a guided yoga session.

The event was spearheaded by the High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the global celebration, and the joint hosting of the event in Guyana reflected more than just shared appreciation for yoga -- it showcased the strengthening of partnerships across borders and sectors.

Giving the keynote address, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, emphasised not only yoga's relevance in health and wellness, but also the wider ties between Guyana and India. "When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited us some time last year, we were very pleased to sign a number of agreements in health, which now allows Indian pharmaceuticals to be available in Guyana, as well as a number of other things that will be beneficial to our population," said the Minister.

He also highlighted the developments in the health sector, such as, the increased business between Guyana and India, and Indian pharmaceuticals now being available in Guyana. "We've also more recently had several Indian companies who came here, and we will be doing more business with those companies, including the renowned Apollo Hospital chain. And one of the things that we'll be doing with Apollo is to extend post-graduate education for a number of our healthcare workers here in India," said Dr Anthony. Apollo Hospitals is the largest private hospital network in India.

While discussing the value of yoga as a tool for personal and public health, Minister Anthony also praised the collaborative origins of the international observance.

"Yoga might be a very ancient art, but it's one that has been tested over time and has been proven to improve the health and vitality of all who practise it. And today, more than ever, as we strive to fight against chronic health and communicable diseases, yoga is one of those ways in which we do it," he said.

The Minister urged participants to incorporate yoga into their everyday lives, noting its relevance for mental well-being in a chaotic world. "In a world where we have so much chaos every day, so much things to worry about, yoga is one way in which we can calm our minds," he said.

He also pointed out the broader value of yoga in terms of longevity and quality of life, saying, “Every country also aspires to have the citizens of their country live longer and healthier lives.”

India’s High Commissioner to Guyana, Dr Amit Telang, also addressed the gathering and reinforced the spirit of global partnership and unity.

“As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of International Day of Yoga, let us recollect that, in 2014, with an unprecedented support extended by almost all the member countries of the UN, June 21 was declared as the International Day of Yoga,” he said.

“It is my esteemed honour that this year we are celebrating the International Day of Yoga here in Guyana, not only in the presence of all of you, but with the support of the UN

and the CARICOM Secretariat,” added Dr Telang.

Participants also heard from representatives from the UN as well as the CARICOM Secretariat before they were guided through a yoga session.



What Does The **Universal Health Voucher** Look Like?

