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HEALTH Record

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\$6.6B hospital launched in De Kinderen

The Government of Guyana has once again fulfilled its commitment to advancing the nation's healthcare system with the official commissioning of the state-of-the-art De Kinderen Hospital, a world-class facility valued at \$6.6 billion, in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara). This landmark achievement marks a significant step in the administration's ongoing mission to ensure every citizen has access to quality, modern, and affordable healthcare services, regardless of geographic location.

The De Kinderen Hospital is fully equipped with cutting-edge medical technology, modern diagnostic equipment, and specialized treatment areas designed to meet both primary and advanced healthcare needs.

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, speaking at the opening ceremony on August 10, reaffirmed Government's dedication to delivering tangible results for the people of Guyana.

The President stated that his Government has invested significantly in the healthcare system by encouraging many Guyanese to enter fields like nursing, medical technology, medicine, laboratory science and dentistry, ensuring better healthcare services for the nation.

"We have made a commitment that wherever the human

capital to provide world-class service in the health care system is absent, we will recruit that human capital from where they are available to ensure that these hospitals are not without the doctors, nurses, technicians and all the other human capital that is needed," the President pledged.

Built to meet Chinese, British and American medical standards, the hospital will provide maternity and neonatal services, surgeries, outpatient clinics and 24/7 emergency care.

Other key features and services include 24-hour accident, emergency and laboratory services; 24-hour access to state-of-the-art imaging technologies, including computed tomography (CT) scans, digital X-rays, ultrasound and other critical departments; three fully equipped surgical theatres;



specialised care units, including an intensive care unit (ICU), high dependency unit (HDU), neonatal care and outpatient clinics for various specialties; and dental, audiology and ophthalmology departments.

President Ali said the hospital is a clear illustration that the transformation in the country's healthcare sector is nothing "short of extraordinary". He emphasised that this standard of world-class healthcare is offered free of charge to every Guyanese citizen.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, emphasised that the facility will be a game changer for healthcare delivery in the region.

The hospital will significantly reduce the burden on other regional and national health facilities by offering timely emergency services, maternal and child health care, surgical procedures, diagnostics, and outpatient services under one roof.

This \$6.6 billion investment reflects the current Administration's unwavering commitment to transforming the healthcare sector through infrastructure development, capacity building and human resource expansion. Plans are also in place to ensure the facility is staffed with highly trained medical professionals, guaranteeing service quality matches the world-class infrastructure.

This development not only signifies a promise kept but also reaffirms the Government's vision of building a healthier Guyana where quality care is accessible to all.

President Ali commissions new \$6.6B Lima Regional Hospital

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali and Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, officially commissioned the state-of-the-art \$6.6 billion Lima Regional Hospital on the Essequibo Coast in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam) on August 22, a milestone hailed as the beginning of a regional health care revolution.

Addressing a large gathering of medical professionals, community members, regional officials and international partners, President Ali declared that the facility represents "a quantum leap" in healthcare, underscoring a bold national agenda to create a world-class, equitable and community-centred health system.

"We are not talking about incremental change. We are talking about a quantum leap in health care," said Dr Ali. "This is not about plastering over old cracks. It's about building strong, impregnable foundations for the future."

The President emphasised that the commissioning of the Lima Regional Hospital marks just the beginning of a broader, transformative overhaul of Guyana's national healthcare system. Central to this vision is the integration of modern technology and infrastructure with equitable, patient-centred service deliver across all regions.

A key pillar of the President's agenda is the rollout of digital health and telemedicine solutions. This includes the launch of electronic health records to replace outdated paper-based systems, and the establishment of more telemedicine sites, allowing patients, even in remote communities, to access consultations from specialists in Georgetown and internationally.

Equally important is the renewed focus on primary health care at the community level. Investments will be made in local health centres to provide essential screenings for conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. By prioritising





early detection and prevention, the Government aims to reduce the burden on tertiary hospitals and improve health outcomes across the population.

In recognition of the critical role of human resources, President Ali outlined a robust plan for human capital development. This includes training 1,200 nurses annually and expanding educational capacity in fields such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and laboratory science. To support this effort, a new medical college campus of the University of Guyana (UG) will be established in Essequibo, enabling more regional students to pursue healthcare careers.

To enhance emergency preparedness and response, the administration will implement a centralised, electronically tracked emergency system. This system will integrate ambulances operating on both road and river, enabling swift responses to medical emergencies across all terrains.

Looking toward the future, President Ali also highlighted plans to incorporate advanced medical innovations, including robotic-assisted surgeries. These procedures would be conducted with real-time remote support from international medical experts, placing Guyana at the forefront of surgical technology in the region.

The President also underscored the importance of

recognising and incentivising health professionals who demonstrate exceptional service and commitment. By offering meaningful rewards and career growth opportunities, the Government aims to retain top talent and build a resilient, motivated healthcare workforce.

“Just as you cannot fit modern engines into donkey carts, you cannot fit 21st-century medicine into 20th-century buildings,” the President said. “We are building a system where referrals become rare exceptions, not the norm.”

President Ali also reaffirmed his Administration’s commitment to equitable health care. “We must set a new standard of care, one that ensures every Guyanese is treated promptly, with dignity and with urgency. Our people deserve nothing less,” he said.

Meanwhile, Minister Anthony stated that the Lima Regional Hospital is one of the most advanced medical facilities ever constructed on the Essequibo Coast. He said the facility is both a beacon of progress and a fulfilled promise made under President Ali’s leadership.

The hospital is not only an investment in infrastructure but also in people. Hundreds of jobs were created during construction, and the facility will continue to provide professional opportunities for Registered Nurses and Nursing Assistants, Patient Care Assistants, Pharmacy and Laboratory Technicians and Specialist Doctors in multiple fields.

The facility is outfitted with three fully equipped operating theatres, a specialised maternity suite; a Neonatal Care Intensive Unit (NICU); an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and a High Dependency Unit (HDU); a dialysis unit with 12 chairs; a blood bank and laboratory capable of over 150 tests; digital imaging such as computed tomography (CT)

scanning, X-rays and ultrasound; mammography services for early breast cancer detection; dental, ophthalmology and audiology departments; an on-site oxygen generation plant; 24-hour emergency department and pharmacy; and 75 air-conditioned inpatient beds with private amenities and nurse call systems.

The facility also includes support services such as a mortuary, sterilisation unit, food services and a laundry.

These advancements eliminate the need for long-distance referrals to Georgetown for critical diagnostics and treatment, ushering in a new era of accessible, high-quality care.



\$6.6B No.75 Regional Hospital in Corentyne commissioned

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali officially commissioned the cutting-edge No. 75 Regional Hospital in Corentyne, Berbice on August 28, declaring it a “red-letter day” in the history of Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne) and a milestone in Guyana’s transformation into a nation of modern, accessible and inclusive healthcare.

The facility now stands as the most advanced healthcare institution in the East Berbice-Corentyne region, and the sixth of its kind to be opened in recent months. It marks a significant leap forward in the Government’s vision of

equitable healthcare for all Guyanese, not just those in Georgetown.

“This hospital is not just a building, it is a promise fulfilled,” President Ali stated. “It is proof that when we say we are investing in people

The No. 75 Hospital is fully outfitted with modern computed tomography (CT) scanners, state-of-the-art surgical suites, and specialty services, including paediatric surgery, once unavailable outside the capital.

The hospital is part of a broader national network of new and upgraded medical facilities across Guyana in areas such as New Amsterdam in Region Six, West Demerara in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara), Ogle in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica), Mabaruma in Region One (Barima-Waini), Kato in Region Eight (Potaro-Siparuni), Lethem in Region Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo) and Bartica in Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni).

Emphasizing the need to bring care to the people, President Ali said, “World-class healthcare must be where the people are.”

Previously, critical care in Berbice required up to four hours of travel. Today, the new hospital drastically reduces referral and response times, an essential step toward saving lives and ensuring equitable access.

Under the leadership of President Ali, Guyana is undergoing a transformative shift in digital health, marked by a series of groundbreaking initiatives aimed at modernising healthcare delivery across the nation.

Central to this transformation is the implementation of a nationwide Electronic Health Records (EHR) system, designed to ensure seamless and secure access to patient data across all regions. This initiative is complemented by the expansion of telehealth services, now connecting more than 200 remote communities with specialists in urban centres, bridging longstanding gaps in access to care.

Innovations in medical technology are also taking root. Artificial intelligence is being deployed to support diagnostics in X-rays, CT scans and pathology, while also enhancing pharmaceutical forecasting.

Meanwhile, smart inventory systems, developed in collaboration with consultancy firm, Ernst & Young, are being introduced to address and eliminate the persistent issue of drug shortages.

Perhaps most notably, Guyana is preparing to launch a revolutionary “Drone Drop for Blood” program, which aims to deliver blood supplies by drone to remote regions within six months, a bold step in ensuring timely, life-saving

interventions in underserved areas.

Recognising that the strength of a healthcare system lies in its workforce, the government has made significant investments in human resources for health.

Since 2020, over 2,000 nursing assistants, 500 nurses, and 200 doctors have been hired. An additional 1,500 nurses are currently undergoing training. To support this growing workforce, nine simulation laboratories have been established, and two

President Ali reaffirmed that by 2030, Guyana will offer the best public healthcare system in the English-speaking Caribbean, including the region's only fully integrated emergency response system; the widest-reaching telemedicine network; and a science-driven, digital and inclusive public healthcare system rivaling private care.

Delivering the feature address at the hospital's opening, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, described the occasion as a proud moment for the people of Region Six, for the people of Guyana, and for the future of the nation's health. He emphasised that true transformation in healthcare demands both skilled professionals and modern technology and affirmed that Guyana is now achieving both. Among the key advancements underway is the introduction of online appointment systems, currently being piloted in Festival City, Georgetown aimed at making healthcare access more efficient and patient-centered.

Telemedicine continues to expand, with 81 telemedicine hubs now linking hinterland communities to remote consultations with doctors and specialists. The gGovernment has also introduced free screenings for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease through a universal health voucher system, removing cost barriers to early diagnosis and preventive care. Essential services have been broadened to include expanded maternal care, prosthetics, and comprehensive dental and hearing services.

A national campaign to eliminate cervical cancer is also in motion, centered on widespread Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (Gardasil Nine) vaccination.

In addition, Guyana is enhancing its outreach through

home-based care programmes, mobile clinics, and targeted support for persons with disabilities.

To strengthen emergency response, a National Ambulance Authority is being established to oversee an integrated Emergency Medical Service (EMS). This system will utilize real-time Global Positioning System (GPS) coordination and deliver rapid response through a network of land, air and river ambulances, ensuring timely access to care in both urban and remote areas.

Guyana is also making significant investments in high-end specialty care, including brain and heart surgeries, joint replacements, organ transplants, and advanced cancer treatments. These services are designed to provide world-class care at home, dramatically reducing the financial and emotional burden of overseas medical travel for Guyanese families.

To further reduce health-related costs for families, the Government is removing all taxes on essential hygiene products for women, children, and the elderly. Strategic partnerships with private providers are being deepened in areas such as dialysis, lab testing, surgery and pharmaceuticals.

The commissioning of the No. 75 Regional Hospital marks the beginning of a new era, where access, innovation, equity, and infrastructure converge to offer every Guyanese the dignity of world-class care, right where they live.

Festival City polyclinic goes digital with pilot launch of electronic system



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on August 21, officially launched the pilot of the National Electronic Health Records (EHR) system, known as eHEALTH, at the Festival City Polyclinic, Georgetown.

The Festival City Polyclinic, one of the four primary healthcare facilities under the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), has been selected as the first site to implement the digital system. This landmark initiative, led by the Ministry of Health, with support from the Government of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), marks a significant step in the transformation of healthcare delivery nationwide.

With the introduction of eHEALTH, paper-based records will gradually be replaced by secure digital files, making patient information more accessible and retrievable by healthcare providers in real time, and more accurate, reducing errors and duplication. These records will also be better protected and strengthened by advanced privacy and security safeguards.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Anthony described the transition as “the beginning of a new digital era for Guyana’s health sector.” He emphasised that the implementation will deliver faster, safer and more coordinated care, reduced waiting times for patients, and greater confidence in the handling of health information.

The pilot at Festival City Polyclinic will serve as a testing and

learning hub before the system is rolled out to health facilities across the country.

The Ministry’s long-term vision is a fully integrated national health system in which laboratory results, imaging, prescriptions, and clinical notes are securely stored in a patient’s digital record and made available at any participating clinic or hospital in Guyana.

Members of the public who wish to learn more about the service can visit the Festival City Polyclinic, or call (592) 218-1001.

214 graduate from Patient Care Assistant training programme in Region Six

A total of 214 individuals proudly graduated from the Ministry of Health’s Patient Care Assistant (PCA) Training Programme in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne) on August 21, marking another significant step in strengthening Guyana’s health workforce.

The graduates successfully completed a rigorous four-month programme, which combined both theoretical and practical clinical training. This comprehensive course equipped them with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively support nursing assistants, registered nurses, and other healthcare professionals in delivering the highest quality of patient care.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, commended the graduates for their dedication and resilience throughout the training, emphasising that their role is vital to strengthening health services across the country.

“This is not just a job, it is a calling that requires passion and commitment,” Dr Anthony noted. “We view this as the beginning of your journey in healthcare, and there are many opportunities available for those who wish to advance further in the sector.”

The Minister underscored that healthcare is fundamentally about service and compassion.

“We want our health sector to be responsive to the needs of people, to embody empathy, and to truly connect with communities. That is the spirit we hope you will take into your work,” he said.

PCAs play an integral part in ensuring that patients receive compassionate, efficient, and professional care, especially within hospitals, health centres and other medical facilities. The newly certified PCAs are expected to serve with excellence, commitment, and empathy, embodying the Ministry’s mission of providing equitable and accessible healthcare for all citizens.

Their graduation also underscores the Government’s continued investment in capacity building and workforce development within the health sector.

This initiative forms part of the Ministry of Health’s broader vision to expand healthcare services, reduce staff shortages, and strengthen the delivery of patient-centered care across Guyana.

‘We are bringing tomorrow’s medicine to Guyana today’

-President Ali at commissioning of No. 75 Village Regional Hospital

Offering both primary and specialised healthcare services, the multibillion-dollar No. 75 Village Regional Hospital in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne) will now serve thousands of Upper Corentyne residents, who would have once had to travel long distances to seek medical attention.



Equipped with the most modern amenities and technology, the facility was commissioned on August 28 by His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, who, during a formal ceremony, told residents and stakeholders that the Government’s revolution of the healthcare sector is not merely about the steel and cement infrastructures, but one that

This is sixth new health facility that has been commissioned in a wider programme that is being pursued by the Government of Guyana to improve healthcare.

The other healthcare facilities are located at Diamond and Enmore in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica), Bath in Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice), De Kinderen in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) and Lima Sands in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam).

Reflecting on the previous failures of the country's healthcare system, President Ali noted that the Government will not stop at the regional facilities, but will take on a larger integrated plan to improve healthcare at every level.

The ultimate aim is to offer services that are no longer confined to geographical lines or neglect.

"It means that no mother in Berbice should have to wonder if her child can see a specialist. It means that no father should have to travel days for dialysis. It means that our seniors, our women, our children, or persons living with disabilities, must feel right where they live that healthcare works for them," the President said.

The Government has embarked on an ambitious plan to provide the necessary infrastructure to decentralise healthcare across the country. Aside from the building of regional facilities, the government has invested heavily in the training of health professionals, telemedicine, digital patient records and other artificial intelligence and technology driven initiatives.

"Just imagine a Guyana where every region boasts hospitals equal to those overseas, that is the Guyana we are building from hinterland to coastland," the President said.

The new hospital will also facilitate the training of medical professionals. Within the next three months, all students enrolled in medical programmes will be able to pursue their courses in Berbice.

The Government plans to expand healthcare access, train 10,000 healthcare workers, and invest in digital health infrastructure. The vision includes a fully integrated emergency response system, telemedicine, and advanced care services.

Quality health care

Meanwhile, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank

Anthony, stated that the Government has been advancing healthcare delivery, ensuring that both primary and specialised care are closer to the doorsteps of residents across the country.

"We have been writing a new chapter in the story of health of this country; a story not of despair, but one of hope, not of neglect, but one of renewal, a story about what happens when a nation dares to believe that healthcare is not a privilege for a few but the right of every man, every woman and every child who calls this place home," Dr Anthony said. Think back just a few years ago, too many families had to travel long distances, wait a long time, or go without care that they desperately needed."

Aside from the state-of-the-art regional facilities being built, the Government has been working to ensure that the smaller facilities too are equipped to adequately serve citizens. Thus far, 26 health centres have been targeted.

The Minister stated

Health Ministry launches 2025 national training to eliminate lymphatic filariasis

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), on August 5 officially launched the 2025 Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) Mass Drug Administration (MDA) national training.

The initiative aims to eliminate LF as a public health threat in Guyana by equipping healthcare personnel with the knowledge and skills required for effective implementation of the Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine and Albendazole (MDA-IDA) protocol.

The two-day training focused on presenting the global and national LF elimination strategies, reinforcing the importance of accurate and timely daily reporting, and training of trainers for the upcoming regional MDA campaigns.

As part of the opening ceremony, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, shared encouraging updates on Guyana's progress and noted that LF has already been eliminated in eight out of the ten regions in Guyana. However, he pointed out that certain communities in Regions Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) and Four (Demerara-Mahaica) remain challenging in the fight against the disease.

"This is why we are going back, targeting those specific areas to complete the elimination of filaria once and for all," Dr

Anthony said. The Minister also encouraged participants to fully engage in the training and apply the skills gained to support Guyana's national health goals.

Alos present at the launch ceremony were PAHO/WHO Representative to Guyana, Dr Kim Eva Dickson, and Director of the Vector Control Services, Dr Reza Niles-Robin, among other officials.





128 Health Sciences students graduate to strengthen Guyana's healthcare workforce

As part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery through enhanced human resource capacity, the Ministry of Health has proudly graduated 128 students from its Health Sciences Division.

This milestone marks a significant step in the Ministry's efforts to expand access to quality healthcare across the nation.

These newly trained Patient Care Assistants (PCAs), drawn from Regions Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) and Four (Demerara-Mahaica), successfully completed an intensive four-month training programme. They are now equipped to provide direct, hands-on care to patients under the supervision of Nursing Assistants or Registered Nurses.

The students underwent a final assessment consisting of a written examination and clinical scoring.

The Region Three programme commenced in October 2024 at the West Demerara Regional Hospital, Vreed-en-Hoop, West Coast Demerara and concluded in February 2025, while the Region Four training began in February 2025 at the Health Sciences Education centre in Kingston, Georgetown and concluded in May 2025.

Both cohorts completed a rigorous four-month programme: two months of theoretical instruction and two months of clinical education. During their clinical placements, students rotated through departments such as the male and female

medical wards, surgical units and paediatrics, gaining first-hand experience in patient care across multiple areas.

Their addition to the healthcare workforce is expected to improve frontline service delivery and support the Ministry's goal of building a resilient, patient-centered health system.

Delivering the keynote address at the graduation ceremony, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, congratulated the graduates and commended their dedication to serving in one of the most noble and impactful professions.

The Minister reminded them of the values and responsibilities that come with being part of the healthcare sector and encouraged them to uphold the standards of excellence expected within the Ministry of Health.

He underscored the increasing need for a skilled and compassionate workforce as the Ministry continues to expand its healthcare

They come to hospitals because they're sick, they're vulnerable, and sometimes they need compassion and empathy from us. And if we fail to do that, then we will not be doing the work that we were trained to do."

Dr Anthony also laid out possible career roadmaps for graduates through a number of Government initiatives, some already underway and others set to begin within the coming months.

He highlighted the one-year nursing assistant programme and the three-year registered nursing programme.

New specialist training in areas like cardiac and ICU nursing will be available, while online platforms such as Coursera and MedVarsity, through Apollo Hospital in India, will offer over 160 free government-funded courses, including ECG training, leading to certificates or diplomas.

International partnerships are also opening doors for training at McMaster University and Mount Sinai Hospital. This, the Minister said, is the first step in the Ministry's move towards nurse specialisation.

"We are working to ensure that we also have specialisation in nursing. So, if you now haven't done, let's say, registered nursing programme, but then you want to go on to become a cardiac nurse, to work in a cardiac ICU or something like that, then we are having specialised programmes where we can train you in these different disciplines," he said.



Encouraging the graduates to embrace every chance to grow, Dr Anthony concluded his address on a note of self-development.

"When these opportunities come, don't hesitate. Take them. Because you don't know when they will come again. Use them to their fullest, because at the end of the day, you will benefit from them," he said.

His message reinforced the significance of continued professional growth in a rapidly modernising health sector, where both infrastructure and skills are being built to serve the nation for decades to come.

The Ministry has also extended its best wishes to the graduates as they begin their journey in service to the people of Guyana, playing a vital role in delivering quality care and strengthening the nation's health

India-Guyana partnership launches free prosthetic camp to amputees



The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Government of India, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, and Kalpataru Projects International Limited, on August 13 launched an Artificial Limb Donation and Fitment Camp at the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre, Georgetown.

The initiative, organised in partnership with Jaipur Foot and the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Seva Samiti, both based in India, marks a significant step in providing life-changing prosthetic limbs to Guyanese citizens in need.

Delivering the feature address at the launching, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, expressed gratitude to the Government of India and Jaipur Foot for their swift collaboration in making this initiative possible.

“This partnership is transformational. Prosthetic limbs do not only restore mobility, they restore independence, dignity and opportunity,” he said.

He added that, for many Guyanese who have lost limbs due to accidents or illnesses such as diabetes, access to affordable prostheses has been out of reach. “Through this programme, we are eliminating barriers and giving people a second chance at life,” he said.

Dr Anthony also highlighted the potential for Guyana to serve as a hub for rehabilitation services in the Caribbean, with opportunities for regional patients to access prosthetic care locally.

Beyond prosthetic support, the partnership opens avenues for broader healthcare collaboration, including training, telemedicine, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the integration of advanced medical technologies.

The Minister underscored Guyana’s commitment to building a world-class healthcare system, strengthened by international cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Meanwhile, Director of Disability and Rehabilitation Services, Dr Ariana Mangar, emphasised the camp’s impact thus far.

“To date, we have already completed 35 prosthetic limbs and plan to deliver another 50 before the camp concludes



\$708.6M Industry polyclinic to transform healthcare delivery

-with advanced diagnostic services, specialty consultations, preventative care, other crucial services

The sod was turned for a new state-of-the-art \$708.6 million polyclinic at Industry, East Coast Demerara on August 8. This modern facility, which will eventually replace the existing health centre, represents a significant advancement in specialised medical services for residents of Industry, Cummings Lodge and surrounding villages.

Once completed, the polyclinic will offer residents access to advanced diagnostic services, specialty consultations, and preventive care, which will greatly alleviate pressure on public health facilities. The project commenced in July 2025 with an expected completion date of July 2026.

The construction is being executed by Satar Mohamed and Sons Construction and Hardware Supplies, with Innovative Engineering Consultancy Services, serving as the consultancy firm.

During the sod-turning ceremony held at the Industry Health Centre, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, emphasised that Government is investing substantial resources to modernise health facilities in and around Georgetown.

“We have about 30 health centres now on the East Coast Demerara. Over the last three years, we have upgraded every

single one of them, providing much better health facilities than we had three to four years ago. That is a remarkable achievement,” the Health Minister said.

Dr Anthony highlighted the modernisation of Guyana’s healthcare system, which now includes modern hospitals, health centres, cutting-edge technology, a larger pool of highly-trained medical professionals, and an improved pharmaceutical supply.

Additionally, a modern polyclinic, costing over \$831 million, is currently under construction in Campbellville, Georgetown, designed to serve the growing population of Kitty and Campbellville. This project is being executed by BM Property Management Inc.

Construction is also underway for a modern Paediatric and Maternal Hospital at Goedverwagting, East Coast Demerara, which will offer specialised services to mothers and children nationwide.

Minister Anthony announced that three additional regional hospitals are set to be commissioned soon. The first three regional facilities were commissioned at Diamond and Enmore in Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica) and Bath in Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice).

“This is to ensure that our people receive nothing but the best,” said the Minister.

Six Guyanese awarded Chinese Government medical scholarships

Six Guyanese medical professionals were awarded the prestigious 2025 Chinese Government scholarship during a ceremony on August 12, underscoring the strengthening educational and diplomatic ties between the two countries.

In his remarks, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Dr Narine Singh, described the occasion as “a celebration of excellence, ambition, and the deepening of our partnership between two nations.”

He urged the scholars not only to enhance their clinical expertise but also to return and serve communities across all ten administrative regions.

“Guyana is not just Georgetown and Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica),” Dr Singh emphasised. “We need you in all regions because healthcare is not only for the people of the coastline.”

Dr Singh also commended China’s contributions to Guyana’s healthcare system, highlighting the Chinese Medical Brigade’s role in transferring specialist surgical skills to local professionals.

Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Guyana, Ms Yang Yang, congratulated the recipients, describing the scholarships as “a flagship initiative in China’s international educational and cultural cooperation”.

She noted that nearly 100 Guyanese have benefitted from the programme over the years, with many returning to make “valuable contributions across a wide range of fields” and serve as “bridges between our two countries.”

The 2025 scholarship awardees will pursue programmes in Clinical Medicine, Clinical Pathology, Endocrinology and Electrical Engineering.





138 health professionals graduate from clinical, technical training programmes

The Ministry of Health, through its Health Sciences Education Division, graduated 138 clinical and technical professionals from a range of specialised training programmes in Pharmacy Assistance, Rehabilitation Assistance, Medex and Medical Laboratory Technology.

A graduation ceremony was held on August 13 at the Pegasus Corporate Centre, Kingston, Georgetown, marking the successful completion of an intensive period of study and practical training for the graduates. These included 34 Medical Laboratory Technicians, 15 Rehabilitation Assistants, 60 Pharmacy Assistants, and 29 Medex.

In his feature address, the Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, congratulated the graduates on their achievements, noting the vital role they will play in strengthening Guyana's healthcare system.

He underscored the Government's ongoing efforts to build a world-class healthcare system, including the opening of two additional hospitals in the coming weeks, bringing the total to six new hospitals commissioned in recent months.

The Minister reminded graduates that, while state-of-the-art facilities and equipment are important, the attitude and dedication of healthcare workers are equally critical.

"We can spend billions of dollars on new hospitals and modern equipment, but without the right attitude from those who serve, our investment means very little. I urge you to lead with compassion, professionalism, and a commitment to giving every patient the best care possible," he said.

He urged them to maintain compassion, professionalism, and a patient-first mindset, ensuring that every individual who visits a health centre or hospital receives quality care.

Closing his address, the Minister expressed confidence in the graduates' ability to uphold professional standards, follow established medical guidelines, and actively contribute to a healthier Guyana.

Among those present at the ceremony were Chief Medical officer, Dr Narine Singh; Director of Rehabilitation Services, Dr Ariana Mangar; Director of Health Sciences Education, Ms Chandroutie Persaud; and other health officials.



Health Minister welcomes 36th group of Peace Corps volunteers to Guyana

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has welcomed a new cohort of Peace Corps volunteers to Guyana.

A swearing-in ceremony, held on August 7, was attended by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Honourable Gail Teixeira; U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, Ms Nicole Theriot; Peace Corps Country Director, Dr Nadine Rogers; and members of the diplomatic community.

This batch marks the 36th group of Peace Corps volunteers and the 4th group of Peace Corps Response volunteers serving in Guyana.

Reflecting on his own experience working alongside a Peace Corps volunteer in Cane Grove, East Coast Demerara as a young Physician, Dr Anthony shared a personal anecdote about how small, community-based interventions can have long-term impacts.

"A simple initiative like playing educational medical documentaries in the waiting area helped bring awareness and empowered patients while they waited to see a doctor," he said. "Those moments remind us that even small efforts can be transformative."

The Minister praised the longstanding partnership between the Government of Guyana and the U.S., particularly through the Peace Corps, the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

He cited multiple successes, including the establishment of the National Public Health Reference Lab through PEPFAR;

support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the donation of ultra-cold storage equipment for vaccines and the installation of oxygen plants in interior regions; ongoing collaboration in human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) strategy; and paediatric Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment.

Looking ahead, Dr Anthony outlined several exciting health initiatives where volunteers will play a key role. These include the nationwide rollout of the comprehensive school health screening programme, ensuring children are assessed at key educational milestones for vision, hearing, dental and overall health; contributions to the elimination of neglected tropical diseases such as lymphatic filariasis, leprosy, Chagas disease and leishmaniasis; and strengthening health systems in interior and remote communities through grassroots engagement.

MOH receives solar-powered vaccine refrigerators from UNICEF



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on August 19 received 10 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), all equipped with remote temperature monitoring, further strengthening Guyana's immunisation cold chain system. With this addition, Guyana now has the largest fleet of these specialised refrigerators in the Caribbean region. The units are allocated primarily for remote hinterland health facilities, ensuring that safe and reliable vaccine storage is available even in areas without consistent electricity.

These Solar Direct Drive Vaccine Refrigerators/Ice-Pack Freezers (TCW120SDD) are designed to maintain the integrity of vaccines in challenging conditions. By bridging the gap in cold chain coverage, they will support equitable access to essential immunisation services across the country.

Among those present were Maternal and Child Health Officer, Dr Oneika Scott; Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Ms Glendon Fogenay; UNICEF

Representative, Mr Gabriel Vockel; Health Officer at UNICEF, Ms Joann Simpson; Programme Associate at UNICEF, Ms Shellon Eversley; and Communication Officer attached to UNICEF, Ms Crystal Stoll.



Vouchers are available at all Health Centres across Guyana

THE CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING VOUCHER

SCAN ME

WHO CAN BENEFIT:
Women 21 - 65 years of age.

Scan QR code for a list of service providers.

THE EYE TESTING VOUCHER & THE SPECTACLES VOUCHER

SCAN ME

WHO CAN BENEFIT:
Anyone under 18 years of age & anyone 50 years and older</

Health Minister meets New Mount Sinai Country Director

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, met with newly appointed Country Director for the U.S.-based Mount Sinai Health System in Guyana, Mr Corey Hancock, during a courtesy visit on August 26 at the Ministry's Brickdam office, Georgetown.

The meeting comes as part of the ongoing collaboration between the Government of Guyana, Mount Sinai Health System, and Hess Corporation, a partnership that was extended earlier this year to continue transforming Guyana's public healthcare system by 2030.

The initiative, launched in 2022, focuses on expanding access to world-class healthcare, particularly in vulnerable communities.

Also in attendance were Chair of the Department of Health System Design and Global Health (Mount Sinai), Dr Rachel Vreeman; Director of Operations and Global Site

Development (Mount Sinai), Mr David Plater; and outgoing Country Director, Mr Josue Alcantara.



EMANCIPATION DAY 2025!



