

HEALTH Record

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Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony (centre), and Executive Director of Conference of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Dr Lisa Indar (left)

Guyana set to host 70th CARPHA health research conference

CARPHA's Executive Director acknowledges Guyana's innovations in health

Guyana is set to host the 70th Annual Health Research Conference of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) in April 2026. This event is expected to spotlight the region's future direction in health innovation and achievements in various countries.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, during a media launch on November 28, said Guyana is honoured to welcome the decades-old meeting, which has long been a platform for scientific exchange and regional cooperation.

“We believe that, while over 70 years,

there would have been a lot of research that would have been conducted, papers that were presented, it shows the rich academic studies that were done in the region, he said. “But we also believe in the future and where health is going and new things that are emerging. We thought that this conference would help to showcase some of those things.”

Dr Anthony said Guyana intends to use the conference to demonstrate how traditional public health approaches can be integrated with modern technologies.

“So, we want to shift, in a sense, from some of the more traditional things that people are accustomed to at these conferences through a blend or abridge of some of the traditional with some of the emerging technologies,” he added.

The Health Minister highlighted several areas where Guyana has made notable progress, including infectious disease management and efforts to eliminate five neglected infections.

“We have done quite a lot of work in terms of meeting some of these infectious diseases. And in fact, we are on target to eliminate at least five

neglected infections, and we believe that sharing that type of experience will help countries in the region to learn from what we're doing here, perhaps, if they have such challenges in their countries to be able to use some of the techniques that we've used here in their respective country," said Dr Anthony.

He pointed out that Guyana has made significant advances in digital health, including the rollout of digital medical records and the country's expanding telemedicine network.

"We have been pioneering a lot of work in terms of digital health, and we have been working on implementing digital health records in the country, and by the time of the conference, we should be on our way of rolling out digital health records at our main hospital," he said.

Dr Anthony said progress made in Guyana thus far places it among global leaders in telemedicine. "We have one of the most extensive telemedicine networks, not just in the Caribbean, but I'm told it's one of the most extensive in the world, because we have currently 81 telemedicine sites across Guyana, and in the next couple of months, we'll be adding 50 additional sites," he said.

Further, innovations being made in the technological side extend to a programme being piloted for the use of drones to deliver medicines.

"We have also been pioneering the use of drone technology, or delivery of medicine... use AI for interpretation of X-rays and CT scans. So that's also something that we'd be able to demonstrate to countries that will be visiting," said the Minister.

CARPHA's Executive Director, Dr Lisa Indar, described the upcoming conference as a historic milestone for the region. She praised Guyana's leadership and suitability as a host country.

"This is more than just a conference, it's a legacy, a momentous event set to take place in Guyana in April 2026, and happily so, as Guyana has demonstrated exemplary leadership innovations in health, which makes Guyana the perfect home for a conference focused on innovation," she said.

Dr Indar reflected on how far the region has come since the first gathering in 1956.

"When the first conference was held in

1956, our region faced overwhelming public health challenges, limited resources and emerging trends that demonstrated and demanded collaboration, yet the Caribbean researchers persevered," she said. "Their work laid the foundation for regional action on chronic diseases, infectious diseases, surveillance, prevention and control, environmental health, health system strengthening and so much more."

Dr Indar noted that the 70th conference is not only a celebration of this legacy, but a call to prepare for the future. She underscored the urgency of innovation amid rising chronic diseases, climate-related health threats and shifting global conditions.

"To meet these challenges, we must embrace new thinking, new tools and new approaches to research, to service delivery and healthcare management," she said, adding that the conference will showcase advancements across the region, including Guyana's own malaria technologies and health surveillance reforms.

"We stand at the threshold of a new era where innovation is driving access, efficiency and precision in unprecedented ways," said Dr Indar.



Guyana advances oral health care

with launch of state-of-the-art dental labs

As Guyana continues to strengthen and modernise its dental care services nationwide, the Ministry of Health, on November 28, commissioned two major facilities at the Cheddi Jagan Dental Centre in Georgetown: a brand-new dental simulation lab and a dental digital lab.

These investments mark a historic leap forward in dental training, innovation and public service delivery. The dental simulation lab represents a transformative upgrade in Guyana's dental education infrastructure.

Equipped with 15 advanced dental simulators, the facility will support hands-on, competency-based training for dental therapists (dentex) and dental surgery students. Designed to enhance instruction in endodontics, periodontics and restorative dentistry, the lab replaces equipment that was originally donated many years ago -- demonstrating the Ministry's strongest commitment yet to developing the next generation of skilled dental professionals.

Complementing this investment is the newly commissioned dental digital lab, outfitted with cutting-edge technology such as digital intraoral scanners and dental 3D printers. Together, these tools enable full in-house production of dental crowns and bridges, dramatically improving the accuracy, efficiency and quality of care.

One of the most impactful features of the digital lab is its service delivery model: all digital dental services will be provided free of cost to the public.

With a single dental crown typically costing around GYD\$150,000, patients will now benefit from significant financial savings. Additionally, the new technology reduces production times from weeks to as little as two-three days, with same-day service available for urgent cases.

As part of the ceremony, a white coat ceremony was held for dental technicians enrolled in the programme relaunched two years ago. This ceremony marks an important milestone, symbolising students' transition from theoretical learning to clinical practice and reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to advancing professional training.

Principal Dental Surgeon, Dr Marvin Monize, described the initiatives as "a significant milestone for oral health care in Guyana," noting that the new facilities will "revolutionise dental training and service delivery for generations to come."

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, emphasised that these investments are part of a broader national effort to modernise healthcare and ensure equitable access to high-quality services for all Guyanese.

With these groundbreaking additions, the Minister said Guyana is poised to offer some of the most modern dental training and digital dentistry services in the Caribbean, further strengthening the country's capacity to deliver comprehensive, affordable and technologically advanced oral health care.



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Guyana is poised to offer some of the most modern dental training and digital dentistry services in the Caribbean.



One of the most impactful features of the digital lab is its service delivery model: all digital dental services will be provided free of cost to the public.

Health Ministry launches recipe book to promote healthy eating

The Ministry of Health is taking a bold step toward transforming the nation's eating habits with the launch of the "Colourful Cooking, Healthy Living" recipe book, an initiative designed to promote healthier lifestyles through smarter food choices.

The novel publication, produced by the Ministry's Food Policy Division, blends traditional Guyanese flavours with nutrient-rich ingredients such as vegetables, seeds and whole grains.

It also significantly reduces or eliminates the use of sugar in many recipes, aligning with national efforts to curb lifestyle-related illnesses.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, commended the Food Policy Division for its commitment to improving national nutrition education, noting that the



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recipe book is a practical step in reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases.

"There are simple changes we can make that can help us live longer. Diet plays a significant role, and we need to encourage people to think carefully about what they eat," Minister Anthony said at a launching for the book.

The healthy living recipe book, tailor-made for Guyanese, is expected to become a valuable resource for families, schools and communities, offering practical, delicious and nourishing recipes that support long-term health and well-being.



Anyone can obtain an electronic copy of the recipe book, "Colourful Cooking, Healthy Living," by scanning a QR code posted at Ministry of Health locations countrywide.

Guyana tops global ranking in women's health

WEF Report

According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) 2025 Global Gender Gap Report, Guyana ranks first globally in women's health and survival, and continues to excel in female educational attainment and literacy.

Guyana climbed to 31st place overall out of 148 nations, advancing four spots from last year's ratings, and solidifying its position among the world's leaders in gender equality. This achievement reflects the Government's targeted investments in women's health, education and empowerment.

Over the past five years, Guyana has rolled out extensive policies and programmes to remove barriers for women and girls while creating equal access to education, healthcare, employment and leadership.

Among these initiatives is the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), which has trained over 90,000 women in areas such as entrepreneurship, information and communication technology (ICT), garment construction, and hospitality, helping women gain financial independence and enter the formal economy.

The Government has also advanced economic empowerment through land and housing distribution, with over 60 per cent of housing titles now registered in women's names, strengthening their financial security and asset ownership.

In addition, support for female farmers through the Women Agri-Entrepreneurs programme has increased women's participation in food production and agri-business across all regions.

Health and safety also remain central to Guyana's gender policy framework. The passage of the Family Violence Act (2024) and the operationalisation of the Hope and Justice Centres have improved protection for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Complementing these reforms are 24-hour national hotlines and the Safe Space App, providing confidential, real-time access to emergency and counselling services.

Guyana's rise in educational attainment is anchored in universal access to schooling, free tertiary education at the University of Guyana (UG) and other technical institutions, and high literacy rates, particularly among girls.

Government investments in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and scholarship programmes have enabled more young women to pursue careers in major fields once dominated by men.

During the National Conference on the Beijing Declaration and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda held on November 5 at the Royal International Hotel in Georgetown, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and

Governance, Honourable Ms Gail Teixeira, praised the achievements, stating that Guyana's improving position in the global gender index shows the Government's commitment to creating an equal society.

"Our investments in women's education, safety, and economic inclusion are transforming lives and accelerating national development," she said. (DPI)



A female patient being attended to by a nurse.



His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali and several pupils listened to a brief lecture at the St George's School of Sciences, commissioned in July 2025.



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, Honourable Ms Gail Teixeira.

Health Minister explains rationale for Government's partnership with Coursera

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has reprimanded Opposition Member of Parliament, Honourable Ms Coretta McDonald, for what he called a misguided defence of an antiquated political system that restricted public servants from accessing genuine learning opportunities.

Ms McDonald had previously been quoted as saying that the Government's partnership with Coursera, a top online training platform in the US, is not appropriate for training public servants because it does not match the Bertram Collins College.

However, the Bertram Collins College, which was established in 2016, was closed four years ago due to reports that the institution had been used as "a front" for the previous coalition Government.

Responding to Ms McDonald's criticisms of Coursera, Minister Anthony, speaking on November 10 during the launch of the Public Service Upskilling Platform at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre (ACCC) in Georgetown, said it reveals her failure to recognise a training platform based on merit.

Under the Public Service Upskilling Programme, public servants from all

regions can obtain internationally recognised certificates from top universities and institutions, without discrimination or political bias.

"When compared to Coursera, Bertram Collins College was not a bastion of excellence; it was a political institution, crafted under the A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) Administration to instil party loyalty, rather than develop the intellectual capacity or professional competence of public servants," the Minister said.

As Guyana continues to transform rapidly in all sectors of the economy, Dr Anthony pointed out that a modern public service will require skills in crucial areas, such as data science, project management, digital transformation and public health -- all of which are taught by Coursera's global experts.

At the platform's launch, His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali revealed that top-performing nations, including Singapore, the US, the UK, Finland and China, utilise the same platform to train their workforce.

"Just the opposite of Ms McDonald's claim is true: Coursera produces empowered, critical thinkers. These are not ideological foot soldiers; they are highly competent professionals

equipped to navigate a complex, evolving global economy and apply fresh, disciplined thought to their duties," said Minister Anthony.

He emphasised that what Guyana requires now is not institutions to reinforce party loyalty, but a training initiative that will drive innovation and inclusivity.

"Ms McDonald's stance is a relic of a bygone era, one that Guyana has long outgrown," Dr Anthony said, adding that education must evolve, or it will fail. "Bertram Collins College was firmly rooted in the past. Coursera is a tool for the future."

Through the Coursera partnership, Guyana stands ready to train 27,000 public servants in a single year.

It powerfully champions the Government's broader agenda to modernise the public service, equips the workforce for a rapidly evolving economy, and guarantees that all Guyanese reap the benefits of increased educational access, transcending mere political affiliations.

To register for the programme, anyone can visit <https://c4b-integration.com/mpsgov> for more information.

Health Minister sworn in as an MP in the 13th Parliament

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, was sworn in as a Member of Parliament for his second consecutive term since the 2020 elections at a recent Sitting of the 13th Parliament, 2025.

Dr Anthony began his current term as Minister of Health following the 2025 elections, reaffirming his unwavering commitment to strengthening the nation's healthcare system, advancing public health initiatives, and ensuring equitable, high-quality care for all citizens.



Advanced warehousing, inventory tracking to improve drug management -as part of MMU's ongoing overhaul

With the modernisation of the management of drugs and medical supplies in Guyana imminent, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has said that advanced warehousing and inventory tracking will play a role in the overhaul of this system.

The Minister was at the time speaking at a recent event, during which he stated that, with the country's Materials Management Unit (MMU), which deals with the distribution of drugs and medical supplies across the country, pharmacists will play a critical role in the reform process.

This role, said Dr Anthony, will be particularly important in maintaining high standards of medication management and distribution at all levels of the health system. "The role of pharmacists in ensuring the quality

and accountability of medical supplies is now more critical than ever," he said. The Government has started working with international consultancy firm, Ernst & Young, to modernise and digitise the MMU system through the introduction of advanced warehousing, inventory tracking and medication dispensing systems.

"We are working with Ernst & Young, one of the world's leading consulting firms, to modernise the MMU. This includes implementing advanced warehousing, inventory tracking and medication dispensing systems. For too long, we have faced losses due to expired or unaccounted-for drugs. Through digitisation, we will be able to monitor stock in real time, prevent theft, and strengthen supply chain management," he said.

In addition to this, construction has

already begun on five new regional warehouses that will serve as major distribution hubs, ensuring medicines are stored under optimal conditions and reach regional health facilities more efficiently.

Recently, His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali had said that the MMU would be completely overhauled to incorporate a digitised, Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered supply chain system. He explained that the upgraded system will feature visible alerts for low stock levels and employ AI to manage and distribute medical supplies across every region with a high degree of automation.

The first phase of the new supply chain system is expected to go live by early 2026, with full integration slated for completion by the end of that year.

Aurora Health Post elevated to Health Centre status

-bringing expanded services to community

Residents of Aurora, Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam) are celebrating a major milestone in local healthcare delivery, as the Aurora Health Post has been officially upgraded to a Health Centre, marking a significant step toward improved access to medical services in the area.

The recent announcement was made during the facility's first annual health fair, which was attended by Director General of the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo; Adviser to the Minister of Health, Dr Bheri Ramsaran; and Chief Medex, Ms Carleen Howard-Mohabir.

Speaking recently to a gathering of residents, school children and healthcare workers, Dr Mahadeo said the expanded range of services offered at the facility now meets the standards of a full-fledged Health Centre.

“Health posts offer basic services, but here, you have a visiting medex, a visiting midwife, a pharmacy assistant, one community health worker with two more to be added, a patient care assistant, and a cleaner. You have a full-blown Health Centre. The services of a health centre are being offered here,” he explained.

Dr Mahadeo pointed out that specialist services will soon be introduced at the upgraded facility, reducing the need for residents to travel to Suddie for treatment of chronic conditions, such as hypertension and diabetes.

“When we have the personnel, you will be able to get your ultrasound done right here as well. Pregnant mothers are already being seen here, and soon high-risk mothers will also receive care here,” he added.

Dr Mahadeo emphasised that the expansion aligns with His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali's vision of ensuring

equitable access to world-class healthcare for all Guyanese. With 291 households in the community, the Ministry of Health plans to have community health workers visit every home at least once every three months to conduct routine checks and provide health education.

“We will be coming to you, talking to you about your health, your diseases, your environment, and the services we offer, but your health is in your hands. Let's meet each other halfway,” Dr Mahadeo urged residents.

A management committee will also be established to ensure the effective operation of the new Health Centre, comprising representatives from the regional administration, the community, and the Suddie Hospital, also in Region Two, under whose supervision the centre falls.

“You have a Government that is fully committed to serving the people, to meeting their needs and ensuring that they not only live longer but live quality lives,” Dr Mahadeo said.

The upgrade of the Aurora facility reflects the Government's continued investment in decentralising healthcare and strengthening primary health services across the regions.



Scenes from Aurora's first annual health fair

22 new Community Health Workers graduate in Region Seven

The Ministry of Health has achieved another milestone in its mission to strengthen Guyana's primary healthcare system with the graduation of 22 Community Health Workers (CHWs) from Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni).

The new graduates completed a six-month training programme under the Health Sciences Division's decentralised training initiative. They hail from communities across Cashew Island and Upper and Middle Mazaruni, and will now return to serve within their own villages, bringing essential health services closer to residents in remote hinterland areas.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Bartica Community Centre Ground, was attended by Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, and Director General of the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, along with regional officials, residents and other stakeholders. Minister Anthony underscored the



importance of training community members to serve their own populations. "We decided to work with communities to identify and train local people who will return home to serve their own areas. This approach has proven far more effective," he said.

Dr Anthony said the initiative forms part of the Ministry of Health's wider goal to ensure that every health facility across Guyana is staffed with at least one or two trained Community Health Workers.

Encouraging the graduates to see their achievement as a stepping stone, he said, "Don't see this as the end of the road. We want to provide opportunities for you to advance, from Community Health Worker to Nursing Assistant, Registered Nurse, and even into specialised areas such as Midwifery and Medical Extension (Medex)."

The Minister highlighted the Government's commitment to continuous professional development, noting that the Ministry of Health has expanded training opportunities through hybrid and online models that allow health workers in far-flung regions to upgrade their skills without leaving their communities.

Among the graduates was Mr Raius Leonard, who expressed joy and pride

at completing the programme. "I feel very honoured to be graduating now that all the hard work has paid off," he said.

Another graduate, Ms Lucia Kalika, shared her experience overcoming the challenges of training in a remote region. "It was challenging sometimes, like waking up early and crossing the river every day, but I am very proud of myself today," she said.

The Ministry of Health's decentralised training initiative continues to expand access to healthcare in hinterland and riverine communities by ensuring residents are cared for by qualified personnel who understand their unique needs and challenges.

The graduation ceremony was also attended by Mayor of Bartica, Mr Anthony Murray; Regional Health Officer, Dr Edward Sagala; Senior Operations Manager, Michael Gouveia; and other regional representatives.

This latest batch of Community Health Workers represents the third cohort trained under the Region Seven programme, reinforcing the Government's long-term vision of universal, equitable and community-driven healthcare delivery across Guyana.

MoH, PAHO/WHO partner to strengthen primary health care in Guyana



The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), conducted a three-day Workshop on Advancing Primary Health care in Guyana, as part of its continued efforts to strengthen the country's health system at the community level.

The workshop, which opened on November 12, brought together regional and national health leaders to build capacity, share knowledge, and develop practical strategies to improve the delivery and quality of primary health care (PHC) services across Guyana.

The main objectives of the training include reorienting regional and national health leadership on the new PHC agenda and developing a regional roadmap for the short- to medium-term implementation of PHC initiatives.

Participants engaged in a series of discussions and technical sessions covering critical topics, such as the Integrated Model of Care and Health Service Delivery Network, the Evolution and Features of a Well-Performing PHC System, national PHC monitoring frameworks,

and the Primary Health care Delivery Model.

Director of Family and Primary Health care Services, Dr Ertensia Hamilton, highlighted that Guyana has made notable strides in strengthening primary care delivery over the past five years. "The fact that we've achieved so much is because everyone understood their role and worked collaboratively toward a shared vision," she said.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, reaffirmed the Government's ongoing commitment to investing in health infrastructure and improving the standard of care. He noted that the Ministry now manages approximately 400 health facilities across the country, ranging from health posts to regional hospitals, many of which have recently undergone extensive upgrades.

"Over the past two years, we have made substantial financial investments to enhance these facilities, upgrading waiting areas, sanitary facilities, and the overall environment to ensure that patients receive care in comfort and dignity," Minister Anthony said.

"At this point, there should be no

health facility facing major infrastructural challenges. Our focus now is on improving accessibility, functionality, and quality across the network," he said.

While commending the progress achieved so far, Dr Anthony reminded participants that the ultimate goal is to create a health system that continuously adapts to meet evolving community needs.

PAHO/WHO Representative to Guyana, Dr Eva Dickson, underscored the importance of primary health care as the cornerstone of any resilient national health system.

"Primary Health Care is the bedrock of community well-being," she said. "It ensures that essential service -- from maternal and child health to immunisation, chronic disease management, and mental health support -- are available and accessible to all."

The workshop aligns with the Ministry's broader vision of delivering quality, people-centred and community-driven health services. It also supports Guyana's national health goals and the global agenda for Universal Health Coverage, ensuring that every citizen has access to essential health care without financial hardship.

Guyana advancing to new, modern healthcare system



Consultant Cardiologist and Presidential Advisor on Science and Healthcare Modernisation, Dr Mahendra Carpen.

Guyana is seeking to accelerate its health system by adopting a “leapfrogging” approach, utilising technology and targeted investments to bypass outdated systems and deliver faster, more effective health care.

As part of comments made on November 22, Consultant Cardiologist and Presidential Advisor on Science and Healthcare Modernisation, Dr Mahendra Carpen, expressed the view, saying the country’s position requires rapid development across all sectors, with health at the centre. Dr Carpen is also Head of the Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation.

“When one compares Guyana to the rest of the world, we find ourselves in a

very unique situation where we need to have accelerated development in all aspects of our lives, healthcare being a principal component of our being,” he said.

Dr Carpen described “leapfrogging” as a model that uses available resources and technology to move directly to more modern systems of care. He said Guyana’s national healthcare strategy is evolving around four pillars, and these include advancement of infrastructure, development of human resources, and application of technology to better deliver healthcare, data and research.

Pointing to a surge of new health centres, hospitals and community health facilities being constructed across the country, he said recreational spaces also contribute to a healthier lifestyle and overall wellbeing.

Dr Carpen highlighted that training is being expanded for all categories of healthcare workers, not only doctors and nurses, but also technicians, community health workers and medex personnel. “There is accelerated training being done for persons so that they can provide appropriate health care to the citizens of Guyana,” he said.

He stated that Guyana has embarked on significant, strong partnerships with overseas partners to aid the development of the country’s human resources. “Our partners also help us to identify gaps and focus our resources on where we will get the biggest bang for a buck,” Dr Carpen said.

Technology, he noted, is central to the leapfrogging approach. This includes the use of artificial intelligence (AI), mobile apps and smart devices to help patients track their health, keep

medical appointments and understand which tests they need.

With the upcoming digital identification (ID) card system, the Government plans to incorporate patients’ medical information, such as blood pressure readings, blood sugar levels, medications, allergies and previous investigations.

This, he explained, will allow a patient from one region to receive care in another, with doctors able to access their records instantly. Patients travelling overseas would also be able to share their information if they choose.

“For example, inventory management. Oftentimes we have seen medications or supplies go in short and so this strategy would help us to identify within the sector where we are having shortages. It would help us predict what the usage is like so that we could plan the purchasing, we could plan our logistics, we could plan our supply train around this,” said Dr Carpen.

He said these pillars are integral in advancing the country’s healthcare delivery to its patients and citizens.



An internal view of a modern health facility.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, flanked by graduates of the Clinical and Technical Training Programme.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, presented the Valedictorian Trophy to Ms Michelle Boyer in recognition of her outstanding performance during the Patient Care Assistant training programme.

A total of 89 Patient Care Assistants (PCAs) from Batches 19 and 20 graduated on November 11 from the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) training programme during a ceremony held at the National Cultural Centre in Georgetown.

The event was attended by the Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony; GPHC's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Robbie Rambarran; and other officials, family members and well-wishers.

Minister Anthony, while delivering the feature address, congratulated the graduates and commended their commitment to serving patients with professionalism and compassion. He reminded the new PCAs that healthcare is a calling requiring discipline, punctuality and empathy.

"If you're not at your post when a patient needs help, it could cost that person their life. Healthcare is not like any other job -- patients depend on

your presence and compassion. You may be starting as Patient Care Assistants, but this is just the first step," he said.

"With discipline and dedication, you can progress to become a Nursing Assistant, Registered Nurse, or even a Doctor. We will continue to provide opportunities for you to develop, but you must be willing to learn and grow," said the Minister.

Dr Anthony also emphasised the importance of attitude and empathy in healthcare delivery, noting that most patient complaints stem from poor interpersonal care rather than medical errors. "You can have the best education, but if you lack empathy and respect for patients, you will fail in this profession," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Rambarran, congratulated the graduates and urged them to uphold the values of care, integrity and accountability. He reminded them that the success of Guyana's health system depends heavily on the attitude and performance of its human resources.

"Healthcare is not just a job it's an obligation," Mr Rambarran said. "You are often the first and last person a patient sees during their hospital stay. Show empathy and treat every patient as you would want your own family to be treated."

He highlighted the Government's ongoing investments in healthcare facilities, equipment and training, but noted that the true strength of the system lies in its people.

Valedictorian, Ms Michelle Boyer,

from Region 10 (Upper Demerara-Berbice), shared that the journey was not an easy one but deeply rewarding.

"The experience was challenging, having to travel from Linden to Georgetown and back daily while caring for my family, but it all paid off. I'm glad I made it, and I'll be taking it one step at a time. My next goal is to enroll in the Nursing Assistant Programme," she said.

Ms Shonel Sampson, from Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica), also expressed pride in her achievement.

"My experience was challenging, especially having to look after my family while working, but it was a great journey. I plan to continue by doing the Nursing Assistant Programme," she noted.

The Ministry of Health and GPHC will continue to train and upskill healthcare workers as part of Guyana's broader effort to strengthen the quality of patient care and build a resilient, people-centred health system.

89 Patient Care Assistants graduate from GPHC training programme





Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, giving remarks at the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy Conference, hosted by the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has underscored the significant advancements Guyana has made in its national human immunodeficiency/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome virus (HIV/AIDS) response.

The Minister made the comment recently, while delivering the feature address at the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy Conference, hosted by the Ministry of Health through the National AIDS Programme Secretariat (NAPS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour.

The event was held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Georgetown, under the theme, “Embracing the Fight Against Discrimination in the Workplace.” The annual conference seeks to strengthen employer engagement in implementing Guyana’s updated National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy, which promotes inclusive, non-discriminatory, and health-conscious working environments, particularly for employees living with HIV.

Dr Anthony highlighted the Government’s investment of nearly US\$500,000 in cutting-edge viral load testing equipment, noting that this upgrade ensures timely and accurate monitoring for every person receiving HIV treatment.

“Once a person is virally suppressed, they cannot transmit HIV to their partner,” the Minister stated, emphasizing that expanding access to viral load testing is critical to achieving this outcome. He affirmed that Guyana remains firmly on track to meet its target of eliminating HIV as a public health threat by 2030.

Despite broad public awareness about HIV prevention, the Minister noted that behavioural change continues to be the most challenging barrier to reducing new infections. “The tools are available; the medication is available, but knowledge alone does not always translate into safer behaviour,” he said.

Dr Anthony urged employers, civil society partners and workplace representatives to champion responsible behaviours within their organisations to help reduce new HIV

Guyana invests in advanced HIV testing, calls for workplace action against discrimination at national conference

and other sexually transmitted infections.

The conference was attended by key stakeholders, including Care and Treatment Coordinator at NAPS, Dr Divay Shivdas; along with other officials and partners from the United Nations (UN).

SPAR Project leaves enduring legacy in mental health reform

-Health Minister

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has praised the strong partnership among the Government of Guyana, the International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF) and the Government of Canada.

The Minister was at the time speaking during the closing ceremony held for the Safeguarding the Human Dignity and Rights of Populations At-Risk for Ill-Mental Health in Vulnerable Communities across Guyana (SPAR) Project. The event was held recently at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Georgetown.

Launched in 2022 through a collaboration between IDRF and the Government of Canada, the CAD\$2.9 million SPAR Project focused on advancing mental health literacy, reducing stigma, expanding community-based support, and

improving early identification and referral services for vulnerable individuals across Guyana.

Dr Anthony highlighted the project's accomplishments, noting its meaningful contributions to communities nationwide and its establishment of a robust network of trained gatekeepers equipped to assist persons at risk of mental health challenges.

“We greatly value the partnership we have had with Canada through this project,” he said. “When we reflect on the results and listen to the testimonials, it is clear that we have truly hit the mark.”

The Minister underscored how the SPAR initiative complemented significant mental health sector reforms undertaken over the past five years. A key achievement was the

replacement of the outdated 1934 mental health legislation with a modern, rights-based legal framework.

“For decades, we relied on laws that used terms like ‘lunatics’ and ‘asylums’ -- language we would never accept today,” Dr Anthony remarked. “We introduced new legislation because we recognised that mental health must be addressed through a progressive and compassionate lens.”

The Health Minister conveyed appreciation on behalf of His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali, noting the Government's strong support for the IDRF and other partners involved in the initiative. He expressed hope that the SPAR Project's impact will continue to shape mental health support and reform in Guyana for years to come.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, spoke during the closing ceremony held for the Safeguarding the Human Dignity and Rights of Populations At-Risk for Ill-Mental Health in Vulnerable Communities across Guyana (SPAR) Project. The event was held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel, Georgetown.

Health Minister, Spanish Counsellor explore opportunities for health sector co-operation



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on November 12 met with Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of Spain, Mr Fernando Varela, at the Ministry's Brickdam office, Georgetown, to discuss potential areas of collaboration aimed at strengthening Guyana's health sector.

The meeting focused on opportunities for bilateral co-operation, particularly in light of recent engagements between Guyana and European Union (EU) member states.

Mr Varela conveyed Spain's keen interest in supporting Guyana's ongoing health sector development, citing the country's strong growth and commitment to improving healthcare delivery nationwide. He also highlighted potential areas for collaboration following a recent EU trade mission to Guyana, noting Spain's willingness to partner on projects that could enhance medical infrastructure, training and technology transfer.

Minister Anthony welcomed the expression of interest and emphasised the Government's commitment to working with international partners to build a more resilient and modern healthcare system.

The meeting forms part of the Ministry's broader effort to deepen partnerships with countries and organisations that can contribute to advancing Guyana's public health goals, including improved access to quality care, capacity building and innovation in health services delivery.

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Stakeholders unite to bolster public health, resilience against drug-resistant infections

As a step towards strengthening integrated national programmes for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), on November 24 launched a two-day workshop aimed at developing a clear, practical and user-friendly national guideline for IPC and AMR.

These guidelines are expected to be adaptable across all healthcare settings and aligned with a One Health approach.

The workshop brings together key stakeholders including public health officials, clinicians, infection control practitioners and partner agencies to

inform the development of evidence-based protocols that support safer healthcare delivery and improved antimicrobial stewardship nationwide. During the opening ceremony, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, underscored the importance of having strong IPC and AMR systems, as Guyana continues to advance its healthcare standards.

Dr Anthony noted that significant groundwork has already begun through technical support from PAHO/WHO, and emphasised that the finalised guidelines must be effectively implemented across every healthcare facility. “Once these guidelines are finished, we must ensure that every single one of our facilities is actively implementing them,” he said.

He highlighted that proper IPC

practices and strengthened AMR surveillance are essential not only for protecting patients and healthcare workers, but also for reducing the burden of drug-resistant infections in the wider community.

The Minister noted that the Ministry remains committed to continuous training, monitoring, and capacity building to support health workers at every level.

The new national guidelines will serve as a foundational tool for standardising IPC practices, guiding antimicrobial use and ultimately improving the quality of care delivered across the country. The outcomes of this workshop will play a crucial role in supporting national health resilience and protecting public health for generations to come.

Q & A

QUESTION

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ANSWER

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Q & A

QUESTION

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Health Minister highlights achievements in healthcare, plans for further advancement

-at Joint UN Stakeholder Consultation

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on November 12, attended a high-level Joint Stakeholder Consultation on Health and Wellbeing, hosted at the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) office in Georgetown.

The consultation brought together key stakeholders from Government, regional health authorities, hospitals, clinics and United Nations (UN) agencies, including United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United National Population Fund (UNFPA), and United Nations Programme for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

The event forms part of the UN's ongoing process to develop the new Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF) for the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean islands, covering the period 2027-2030.

The framework aims to guide and strengthen collaboration between the UN and the Government of Guyana in advancing national priorities, with health and wellbeing expected to remain a central pillar.

Minister Anthony, in his remarks at the event, underscored the Ministry's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery across the country through both infrastructure expansion and innovative health programmes.

Health Minister attends high-level Joint Stakeholder Consultation on Health and Wellbeing at the (PAHO/WHO) office in Georgetown

“Our work in health and wellbeing is about more than treating illness it's

about prevention, early detection, and creating a system that supports the long-term wellness of all Guyanese,” the Minister said.

He highlighted recent achievements, including the opening of six new regional hospitals, ongoing construction of eight more including paediatric and specialised facilities and the establishment of 25 new health centres over the last three years, with 10 additional currently under construction.

Additionally, the Ministry is expanding health posts in underserved areas to increase access to primary care.

Dr Anthony also outlined the Ministry's programmes in prevention and wellness, such as strengthened maternal and child health services, expanded immunisation coverage supported by UNICEF, and school health screenings for nearly 70,000 children in primary and nursery.

Efforts are also underway to address chronic non-communicable diseases, nutrition, lifestyle factors, and mental health, alongside disease control and elimination programmes for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Tuberculosis (TB), malaria, filaria and other neglected infections.

“The engagement of national and international stakeholders in consultations like these allows us to align priorities, share lessons learned, and plan future interventions that are evidence-based and contextually relevant. Together, we can shape a healthier future for Guyana,” he said.

The Minister also highlighted the Government's focus on developing human resources in health, including training programmes for nurses, doctors, administrators, and technicians, supported through collaborations with PAHO and other partners.

GPHC completes 28 joint replacement surgeries

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) successfully performed 28 joint replacement surgeries between the period November 7 and 10, 2025. The surgeries are being hailed as a significant achievement of the hospital's Orthopaedic Department.

The surgeries, conducted by a team comprising orthopaedic surgeons, anaesthetists, physiotherapists, nurses and operating theatre staff, led by Chief Orthopedic Surgeon at GPHC, Dr Kaaleshwar Ramcharran, initially aimed for 27 surgeries, but exceeded the target.

Joint replacement surgeries at private hospitals can cost around GYD\$2.5 million each, a significant factor of this



initiative for the patients involved. All patients who underwent surgeries have now been discharged.

The successful completion of this high-volume surgical schedule demonstrates the GPHC's expanding capacity and its commitment to world-class orthopaedic care and is a demonstration of the Ministry of Health's strategic investments in providing surgical services, significantly enhancing outcomes and effectively minimising waiting lists.

The final tally included 18 knee replacements and 10 hip replacements, benefiting 22 females and six males.

HOTTA presents findings from recent studies

The Human Organ and Tissue Transplant Agency (HOTTA) recently hosted a Research Study Report Dissemination event to present key findings from recent studies. The research focused on knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), hemodialysis and kidney transplantation among patients and caregivers in Guyana.

The study provides invaluable insights into the perceptions, understanding, and lived experiences of those affected, offering a clearer picture of national gaps and needs in kidney health and treatment support systems.

During the one-day forum, presenters explored major thematic areas including, "The Silent Epidemic:



Understanding CKD, Socio-demographic Factors and Knowledge Levels," as well as "Socio-demographic Factors, Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Hemodialysis Therapy." A synthesis of the research findings and their implications was also shared.

Speakers delivered in-depth discussions on the data, highlighting emerging trends, current gaps, and opportunities to strengthen Guyana's response to CKD, while improving patient outcomes, education and access to life-saving care.

Among those present at the event were Chief Executive Officer of the HOTTA Secretariat, Dr Sondia Gordon, and Chair of HOTTA, Dr Shanti Singh-Anthony.



Guyana, Brazil partner to strengthen organ donation, transplantation programme

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently met with representatives from Brazil's Ministry of Health and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) to advance collaboration under the Prospective Mission on Organ Donation and Transplantation, which took place from November 10-11 in Georgetown.

The visiting delegation, comprising highly skilled technical experts from Brazil's National Transplant Programme, will conduct a rapid assessment of Guyana's current transplant system. The evaluation aims to identify priority areas for collaboration, capacity building, and

system enhancement to further strengthen Guyana's national transplant programme.

During the meeting, Minister Anthony underscored the importance of accelerating the establishment and operationalisation of the Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Laboratory.

He highlighted the need for comprehensive training of laboratory personnel, the implementation of quality assurance protocols for HLA testing and the strengthening of the entire transplant continuum, from organ retrieval and surgical transplantation techniques to

system-wide readiness.

As part of their mission, the Brazilian team will visit key health facilities, including the Nephrology and Transplantation Departments and the Central Medical Laboratory at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). They will also hold technical discussions with local clinicians to define critical areas for joint action and support.

Following the assessment, the delegation will develop a detailed action plan outlining specific activities and timelines to address identified gaps. Implementation of the plan is expected to commence immediately following the mission.

Among those present at the meeting were Ambassador of Brazil to Guyana, Ms Maria Cristina de Castro Martins; Chair of the Human Organ and Tissue Transplant Agency (HOATTA), Dr Shanti Singh-Anthony; and Chief Executive Officer of the HOATTA Secretariat, Dr Sondia Gordon.

MOH, EU to explore research, innovation opportunities

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently hosted a high-level meeting with representatives from the European Union (EU) to explore collaborative opportunities

under the Horizon Europe Programme, the EU's flagship research and innovation initiative for the period 2021-2027.

The discussions focused on strengthening research partnerships and fostering innovation-driven collaboration between Guyana and the EU. Both parties examined avenues to enhance scientific cooperation, knowledge exchange, and capacity building within Guyana's health and academic sectors.

As part of the engagement, the meeting also addressed plans for a two-day workshop designed to promote innovation, capacity development, and post-academic collaboration. This initiative aims to

further integrate Guyanese researchers and institutions into broader international research networks.

Among the EU representatives present were Programme Officer, Ms Charlotte De Grauwe; Head of Cooperation, Mr Joan Nadal Sastre; and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms Viktoria Bodnarova.

Minister Anthony reaffirmed the Government of Guyana's commitment to advancing scientific research and innovation through strategic international partnerships, noting that such collaborations are essential to the country's sustainable development and public health advancement.

Health Minister highlights vision for life sciences, medical research advancement

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, underscored Guyana's commitment to advancing medical research and innovation, while speaking recently at the 18th Guyana Medical Research Conference, held at the Pegasus Suites and Corporate Centre in Kingston, Georgetown.

The annual event brings together local

and international researchers, academics and healthcare professionals to share findings, exchange ideas and strengthen scientific collaboration across the health sector.

In his keynote remarks, Minister Anthony emphasised that the conference serves as a crucial platform for developing evidence-based solutions tailored to Guyana's health challenges.

"These conferences allow us to study our local setting and develop practical solutions that can inform health policy and improve delivery. We have already seen how past research findings have been applied to strengthen the health system, and this must continue," he said.

The Minister outlined plans to create a biobank in Guyana to support genetic and tissue-based research, while

encouraging greater use of artificial intelligence and computational biology in medical studies.

He also highlighted the Government's new clinical trials legislation, which will establish a governance framework for ethically conducted trials within the country.

"Guyana has the potential to become a hub for medical innovation in the region," Dr. Anthony said. "We must build institutions that not only deliver clinical excellence but also produce world-class discovery science."

The Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to expanding health infrastructure, developing new hospitals, and building capacity through research training and scholarships, calling for stronger academic linkages between Guyanese and European universities to enhance local expertise.

Health Ministry commemorates International Men's Day

-honours men in public health sector

The Ministry of Health, through its Men's Health Unit, recently hosted a special ceremony in observance of International Men's Day, recognising and celebrating the invaluable contributions of men serving within the public health sector.

The event was held in the Ministry's Boardroom on Brickdam, Georgetown under the 2025 global theme, "Supporting Men and Boys."



Delivering the feature remarks, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh, underscored the increasing global significance of International Men's Day, noting that it is now celebrated in more than 90 countries, making it one of the fastest-growing international observances.

Dr Singh highlighted several key issues commonly recognised worldwide, including men's mental health,

non-communicable diseases, violence prevention, and educational outcomes among boys. He noted that these concerns also reflect ongoing public health priorities in Guyana.

Director General in the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, emphasised that men's issues are fundamentally human issues and reiterated the importance of supporting men to build a stronger, more resilient future.

"Supporting men will not always be easy, but it is necessary if we are to create a steadfast and strong tomorrow," said Dr Mahadeo. He also congratulated all the men in attendance, referring to them as heroes, and encouraged them to use their skills and potential to positively shape society.

Also addressing the gathering were Director of Family and Primary Health Care, Dr Ertenisa Hamilton, and Men's Health Coordinator, Dr Sawan Jagnarine. Both officials urged men to take proactive steps in managing their health, stressing that preventive care and early intervention are vital to achieving longer, healthier lives.



Health Minister, UN Resident Coordinator discuss strengthening health partnership

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently had a courtesy visit from United Nations (UN) Resident

Coordinator in Guyana, Ms Jean Kamau, at his Brickdam office, Georgetown.

Representative of the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) in Guyana, Dr Kim Ava Dickson, also attended the meeting.

The discussions focused on key areas of cooperation, including the national human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) response, mental health and suicide prevention initiatives, as well as upcoming changes in the UN Country Team configuration, particularly relating to UNAIDS.

Both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing public health in Guyana in line with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

With the aim of exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently met with a visiting team from Coursera, a leading global online learning platform.

The meeting centered on discussions to enhance training and professional development opportunities for healthcare workers across Guyana through Coursera's diverse catalog of accredited online courses.

These potential partnerships are expected to support the Ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen capacity within the health sector, promote continuous learning, and introduce innovative approaches to workforce development.

Health Minister meets with Coursera Team to explore future collaboration

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GPHC celebrates excellence at 18th annual awards banquet for graduating specialties



The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) hosted its 18th annual awards banquet for graduating specialties on November 2, honouring over 50 healthcare professionals who successfully completed advanced training programmes under the Institute of Health Sciences Education.

This prestigious event celebrated the academic achievements and clinical excellence of graduates who have pursued rigorous postgraduate and fellowship programmes, equipping them to deliver specialised care across Guyana's health system.

The graduates majored in a wide range of disciplines including:

- Fellowship in Regional Anaesthesia and Acute Pain Management
- Fellowship in Echocardiography
- Master of Medicine in Diagnostic Radiology
- Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine
- Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine
- Master of Medicine in Paediatric Medicine
- Master of Medicine in Orthopaedics and Traumatology
- Master of Medicine in Psychiatry
- Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Master of Medicine in General Surgery
- Master of Medicine in Family Medicine
- Master of Medicine in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
- Post Graduate Diploma in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
- Bachelor of Science in Emergency Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Anaesthetic Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Cardiovascular Nursing

During the ceremony, special awards were presented for outstanding achievements, including:

- Best Research Presentation by a Graduand
- Best Research Submission by a Graduand
- IHSE Most Outstanding Graduand Award

Delivering the keynote address, the Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, commended the graduates for their dedication, discipline, and perseverance throughout their academic journey. He noted that their success represents a vital step in strengthening Guyana's health workforce and expanding access to specialised medical care nationwide.

"We've started a process of transforming what health looks like in Guyana, and you've gotten a taste of what that transformation appears to be," Dr Anthony said. "In the years ahead, we will have an addition of eight new hospitals to be constructed of which we will need some of you to go out and serve people in various parts of our country."

The Minister further highlighted the Ministry's continued investment in postgraduate medical education and the importance of creating an enabling environment for specialists to thrive within the public health system.

The evening concluded with an atmosphere of pride and celebration, as graduates were encouraged to continue embodying the values of excellence, service and compassion in their professional pursuits.

Enmore Regional Hospital observes World Prematurity Day with renewed commitment to newborn care



The Enmore Regional Hospital, located on the East Coast Demerara, proudly joined the global community in recognising World Prematurity Day, honouring premature babies, their families, and the healthcare

professionals who support them with unwavering dedication.

To mark the observance, staff members wore purple, the international colour symbolizing prematurity awareness. Staff also wore specially designed purple T-shirts, showcasing their solidarity and dedication to improving outcomes for the hospital's tiniest and most vulnerable patients.

On November 15, the hospital further strengthened its neonatal care capacity, as six staff members successfully completed training in the Neonatal Resuscitation Programme (NRP).

In addition, the institution received a brand-new NeoPuff device from the Giving Help to Kids Foundation, a Canadian charity focused on decreasing neonatal and infant mortality.

This essential equipment will enhance the hospital's ability to provide safe, controlled respiratory support to newborns requiring urgent care.

The management of the hospital also commended its pediatric team for their ongoing commitment to advancing neonatal services and ensuring that every newborn receives the best possible start to life.



Health Minister conducts walkthrough of Bartica Regional Hospital

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, accompanied by the Ministry's Director General, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, recently conducted a walkthrough of the Bartica Regional Hospital as part of a visit to Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni).

The visit included a spot check to assess the quality of services provided and to ensure compliance with the Ministry of Health's established standards. During the inspection, it was noted that the hospital's Dental Department has been enhanced with the addition of a new dental chair, thereby increasing its capacity to better serve patients.

Also in attendance were the Mayor of Bartica, Mr Anthony Murray; Regional Health Officer, Dr Edward Sagala; Senior Operations Manager within the Regional Health Services Department, Mr Michael Gouveia; and other officials.



Health Minister engages EU expert on investment opportunities in health sector

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently met with an expert from the Trade and Private Sector Development (TPSD) Facility of the European Union (EU), Mr Bairav Raja, to discuss investment perspectives, emerging trends and priority areas for collaboration within Guyana's health sector.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Health's Brickdam Headquarters, Georgetown. The meeting highlighted opportunities to strengthen partnerships and advance sustainable development in health services and infrastructure.





GPHC ICU-1 recognised for highest hand-hygiene compliance in third quarter

The Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) has awarded its Intensive Care Unit 1 (ICU-1) for achieving the highest hand-hygiene compliance rate in the third quarter of 2025, part of the hospital's ongoing effort to curb infections and improve patient safety.

The award forms part of a quarterly initiative introduced by GPHC to promote consistent hand hygiene among healthcare workers -- a critical measure in preventing the spread of infectious diseases within medical facilities.

Compliance is monitored across all eligible units, with the top-performing department recognised each quarter. GPHC officials said the ICU-1's performance reflects both a strong adherence to safety protocols and a broader institutional push to strengthen patient-care standards. Hand hygiene remains one of the most effective interventions for reducing hospital-acquired infections, a key focus for the country's largest public health institution.

The recognition programme is intended to reinforce accountability, encourage staff engagement and sustain a culture of quality care across the hospital.

Chinese Medical Team launches cultural integration month in Guyana

The inaugural Chinese language class held at the Chinese Association in Georgetown on November 8, marked the official opening of “Strings of Melody, Hearts in Harmony: China–Guyana Cultural Integration Promotion Month.”

The month-long initiative, organised by the 21st Chinese Medical Team to Guyana, seeks to deepen bilateral friendship and strengthen people-to-people ties through a diverse range of language, art, and wellness activities.

Supported by the Chinese Association in Guyana and the Guyana-China

Friendship Association, the programme features two major components: a Traditional Arts and Language Popularisation Programme and a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Wellness Culture Promotion.

The opening event featured an introductory Chinese language lecture, where participants received beginner-level textbooks to start their learning journey.

The classes, scheduled weekly for a total of 12 sessions, will culminate in a small-scale performance, highlighting the team’s commitment to cultural exchange beyond medical service.

The Ministry of Health has officially launched the Mash Band 2026, under the theme, “The Birth of a New Era of Health and Wellness: Celebration of a World-Class Healthcare System.”

More than a display of festivity, the 2026 band embodies transformation, resilience and our collective commitment to building a healthier

future for all.

With the opening of six new regional hospitals, significant advancements in medical technology, and expanded access to high-quality, patient-centered care, the Health Ministry is continuing to usher in a new era of innovation, equity and wellness.

Health Ministry launches Mash Band 2026

