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# HEALTH Record

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# Health Minister calls for renewed commitment to end HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has called for renewed regional commitment to ending Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in the Caribbean.

The Minister made the remark while speaking at the 10th Meeting of National AIDS Programme Managers and Key Partners, held in Trinidad and Tobago from March 17-20. Dr Anthony, is also Chair of the Executive Board of the Pan-Caribbean Partnership (PANCAP) against HIV and AIDS and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) -- Health.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders from across the Caribbean, including National AIDS Programme Managers, Chief Medical Officers, and Permanent Secretaries, along with representatives from critical sectors such as Finance, Planning and Community Development. The engagement was aimed at strengthening the region's HIV response through enhanced coordination, policy alignment and cross-sector collaboration.

Delivering remarks at the opening ceremony, Minister Anthony called for renewed regional commitment to ending AIDS in the Caribbean. He highlighted the significant progress made over the past decade, noting that AIDS-related deaths have declined by more than 60 per cent since 2010. This achievement, he emphasised, reflects the sustained efforts of healthcare workers, programme managers, and regional partners who have led the response with dedication and resilience.

Despite these gains, the Minister cautioned that the region continues to face critical challenges, with approximately 15,000 new HIV infections recorded annually. He noted that young people remain among the most affected groups, underscoring the need for targeted interventions.

Minister Anthony emphasised that while the Caribbean now has access to unprecedented tools, including expanded testing, treatment and innovative prevention methods, there must be a stronger focus on increasing access, strengthening prevention strategies and ensuring sustainable financing.

He called for enhanced regional collaboration to secure affordable medicines and technologies, while maintaining a people-centred approach that prioritises the most vulnerable populations. "As a region, we have proven that we can deliver results. Now, we must decide, will we manage AIDS, or will we end it?" the Minister asked.

In closing, the Health Minister reaffirmed his commitment to working with regional and international partners to achieve the goal of ending AIDS in the Caribbean.





# National initiative launched to strengthen hospital quality and patient safety

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with U.S.-based Mount Sinai Health System, has launched a national initiative aimed at strengthening hospital quality and patient safety across Guyana's newly constructed regional hospitals.

The launch took place on March 26 at the Ministry's Brickdam Headquarters, Georgetown and marks a significant step toward enhancing healthcare delivery nationwide.

This initiative supports Guyana's broader vision to modernise its health services and expand access to

high-quality care. The country's new, state-of-the-art regional hospitals are already transforming healthcare access by bringing advanced diagnostic, surgical, and emergency services closer to communities.

This development reduces the need for patients to travel long distances to Georgetown for specialized care, ensuring more timely and efficient treatment. The launch coincided with the opening of a two-day workshop focused on implementing the initiative.

During the ceremony, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, underscored the importance of improving service quality across all health facilities.

"As we work towards improving quality, we must prioritize coordination," Dr Anthony said. "We are looking at establishing a Hospital Quality Improvement Council, which will provide broad oversight for the implementation process."

The Minister explained that Regional Health Officers will play a critical role in advancing this agenda by establishing regional quality councils. Additionally, each healthcare institution will form dedicated committees to drive and monitor quality improvement efforts at the facility level.

The National Hospital Quality Improvement Initiative forms part of the government's wider National Healthcare Initiative, which is a strategic partnership involving Guyana, Mount Sinai Health System and Hess Corporation.

# Project ECHO launched to strengthen nationwide healthcare capacity

The Ministry of Health has officially launched Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a programme aimed at enhancing healthcare delivery through knowledge-sharing and continuous professional development.

The programme is being implemented in collaboration with the U.S.-based Mount Sinai Health System, marking another milestone in Guyana's ongoing efforts to modernise and strengthen its public health system.

Speaking at the launch on March 25, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, emphasised that, while Guyana has made substantial investments in healthcare infrastructure, equal attention must be given to strengthening the knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals.

“If we only focus on infrastructure without upgrading the knowledge of our healthcare workers, the system will not function at its full potential. Project ECHO allows for real-time, peer-to-peer learning that will enhance clinical decision-making across the country,” the Minister said.

Project ECHO is a tele-mentoring model that connects healthcare providers in remote communities with specialists through a virtual “hub-and-spoke” network. Unlike traditional tele-medicine, which focuses on direct patient care, Project ECHO builds capacity by mentoring healthcare workers and facilitating case-based learning.

Through this platform, clinicians can present real-life cases, receive guidance from experts and share best practices, helping to standardise care nationwide.

Dr Anthony noted that Guyana's expanding telemedicine network, expected to reach 200 communities by the end of 2026, will play a critical role in ensuring broad participation in the programme. The initiative aligns with the Ministry's broader focus on improving patient safety and reducing medical errors.

Meanwhile, plans are underway to establish a Quality-of-Care Unit to monitor adherence to clinical guidelines and support continuous system improvement.



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, “Healthcare is constantly evolving. Continuous learning and collaboration are essential if we are to improve outcomes and reduce errors across our system,” Dr Anthony said. “This is not a passive system. Its success depends on participation, openness and a commitment to learning.”

Also speaking at the launch, Executive Director of Mount Sinai’s Guyana National Healthcare Initiative, Dr Rachel Vreeman, underscored the global success of Project ECHO, drawing on her previous experience while implementing the model in Kenya.

“Project ECHO creates a community of practice where clinicians, no matter how remote, can access expert guidance and deliver standardised, high-quality care. It has proven to be a powerful tool for improving health systems worldwide,” Dr Vreeman said. She added that Mount Sinai is proud to support Guyana in implementing this evidence-based approach to healthcare education and service delivery.

Guyana’s Project ECHO Programme will feature a “Hub Team” of specialists from the Ministry of Health’s Chronic Disease Unit; “Spoke Sites” across hospitals and remote health facilities; regular virtual sessions combining short lectures with interactive case discussions; and a focus on chronic diseases, diabetes and cardiovascular care.

Two initial tracks will be launched. They are the Primary Care and Chronic Disease ECHO, led by the Health Ministry, and the Complex Diabetes and Cardiovascular Care ECHO, led by the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). Sessions will be supported by the iECHO digital platform, enabling participant tracking, resource sharing and monitoring of programme outcomes.

The launch of Project ECHO signals Guyana’s commitment to leveraging innovation and global partnerships to improve healthcare access and quality for all citizens. The project represents a shift toward a more collaborative, knowledge-driven healthcare system, where learning is continuous and shared across all levels of care. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to actively participate, present cases and engage in discussions to fully benefit from the platform.



## Wellness Centre to promote preventive care among Health Ministry staff

The Ministry of Health commissioned a new Wellness Centre at Eccles, East Bank Demerara, on March 4, marking a significant step in advancing preventive healthcare and promoting the overall well-being of its staff members and public healthcare professionals.

The facility, located in the compound of the Eccles Health Centre, was officially opened by Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, who underscored the Ministry’s commitment to shifting the national healthcare focus from primarily treating illness to preventing disease and encouraging healthier lifestyles.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Dr Anthony noted that traditional healthcare systems often concentrate on managing illnesses after they occur. He said the establishment of the Wellness Centre represents a proactive approach aimed at helping individuals maintain good health and reduce the risk of developing chronic conditions.

“This facility represents a shift from what we traditionally describe as ‘sick care’ to a stronger focus on preventative care. We want people to remain healthier for longer and avoid developing complications from chronic diseases,” said the Minister.

# Guyana, U.S. participate in 2026 LAMAT Mission

Dr Anthony emphasised the importance of regular medical check-ups, particularly among men, who frequently delay seeking medical attention until conditions become severe. He pointed out that early detection of illnesses, such as pre-diabetes and hypertension, significantly improves the chances of successful management and, in some cases, reversal of these conditions.

The Wellness Centre will initially function as a pilot programme for staff of the Ministry of Health. It will offer a comprehensive range of services, including annual health check-ups; screening for diabetes and hypertension; cardiovascular assessments, including electrocardiograms (ECGs); preventive screenings for cervical, breast, and prostate cancers; orthopaedic rehabilitation services; and education and counselling on nutrition, healthy eating, stress management, adequate sleep and positive lifestyle changes.

The commissioning of the Wellness Centre reflects the Ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen preventive healthcare services and safeguard the health and well-being of healthcare workers, with the broader goal of fostering a healthier population across Guyana.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were Director of Regional Health Services, Dr Cerdel Mc Watt; Director of Family and Primary Healthcare Services, Dr Ertenisa Hamilton; and Director of Rehabilitation Services, Dr Ariane Mangar; along with other senior health officials.



The Ministry of Health successfully participated in the 2026 Lesser Antilles Medical Assistance Team (LAMAT) Mission, which involved U.S. and Guyanese medical professionals working side by side for about two weeks during the month of March to provide specialised medical services, strengthen local capacity, and enhance collaboration between the two countries.

An opening ceremony, held on March 16 at the Guyana Marriott Hotel in Kingston, Georgetown, was attended by officials from the Health Ministry and representatives of the U.S. government. The mission was coordinated by U.S. Southern Command in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

The mission, which commenced on March 16, continued until March 27. During this period, teams focused on delivering high-quality medical, surgical, ophthalmological and dental services, while also supporting ongoing capacity-strengthening efforts within the health sector.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, expressed appreciation for the continued partnership and welcomed the visiting medical team.

Dr Anthony noted that this was the third LAMAT mission in Guyana, following successful engagements in 2023 and 2025. He emphasised that the collaboration has significantly benefited both local healthcare professionals and patients.

“The previous missions have been extremely successful. One of the most important things we learned was how seamlessly the visiting team worked with our local healthcare professionals. These exchanges allow our teams to learn new techniques, expand the scope

of services we can provide, and build lasting professional relationships,” the Minister said.

He noted that the 2026 mission was the largest to date, with more healthcare professionals participating and services being delivered at multiple health facilities across the country.

The 80-member medical team conducted procedures and provided care at several institutions, including the Linden Hospital Complex, Region 10 (Upper Demerara-Berbice); Diamond Regional Hospital, Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica); West Demerara Regional Hospital, Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara); De Kinderen Regional Hospital, also in Region Three; Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GHPC); and the Cheddi Jagan Dental School, Carmichael Street, Georgetown.

Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Guyana, Mr John Crippen, underscored the importance of the initiative as part of a broader commitment by the U.S. government to strengthen regional health systems. He explained that the LAMAT mission brings together medical professionals from the U.S. and partner countries to provide treatment to patients in need, while also facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity building.

“This mission reflects the steadfast commitment of the U.S. to the people of Guyana. Our teams work alongside Guyanese counterparts to deliver medical, surgical, ophthalmological and dental services, while sharing expertise and strengthening partnerships,” Mr Crippen said.

Troop Commander of the U.S. Air Force and Team Leader of the 2026 LAMAT Mission, Col. Theodore Lizeski, emphasised that the initiative is grounded in collaboration and partnership.

“This mission is about working side by side, sharing knowledge and strengthening readiness through partnership. By building strong professional relationships, we ensure that when future challenges arise, whether natural disasters or public health emergencies, we are prepared to respond together as trusted partners,” he said.

The mission forms part of broader health cooperation

between Guyana and the U.S., which has spanned decades and includes collaboration through initiatives such as the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), support during the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing technical partnerships with U.S. medical institutions.

The visiting and local healthcare professionals also participated in clinical exchanges and training activities aimed at strengthening Guyana’s healthcare system and improving patient outcomes.

### **Advance team**

Prior to the launching of the mission, Minister Anthony had met with an advance team at his office on Brickdam, Georgetown. The advance team was also led by Col. Lizeski.

The 2026 LAMAT Mission highlights the strong and enduring partnership between the governments of Guyana and the U.S., reflecting a shared commitment to improving healthcare delivery and strengthening bilateral cooperation.

### **Briefing**

Nearing the end of the 2026 LAMAT Mission, the Health Minister also received a briefing on the initiative’s progress and plans for future collaboration.

At a high-level meeting, held with the Minister at this Brickdam office, the discussions focused on key areas of collaboration, including strengthening partnerships between the Health Ministry and U.S. universities, advancing digital health initiatives and expanding the scope of surgical outreach programmes across Guyana. These efforts aim to enhance capacity building, improve healthcare delivery and ensure sustainable impact beyond the duration of the mission.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong partnership between the Ministry of Health and the LAMAT Mission, with a shared commitment to advancing healthcare services in Guyana through continued collaboration and innovation. Also present was the Ministry’s LAMAT Focal Point, Dr Anand Persaud, who continues to play a key role in coordinating efforts between local and international stakeholders.



# Community Nutrition Technician programme launched

The Ministry of Health, through its Health Sciences Education Division, on March 9 launched its Community Nutrition Technician programme at the Ministry's Conference Room on Brickdam, Georgetown.

The six-month programme welcomed its first cohort of 20 students, who will undergo training across four key modules: Foundations in Nutrition and Health, Nutrition Knowledge and Applications, Food Science and Health Applications, and Practical Attachment and Field Training. The initiative is designed to strengthen community-based nutrition services by equipping trainees with essential knowledge and practical skills.

Key objectives of the programme include equipping students with techniques to conduct nutrition screening and assessments, providing practical experience in community nutrition outreach, and introducing modern data collection methods for effective nutrition tracking and monitoring.



Delivering remarks at the launch, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, encouraged the students to work closely with patients to ensure they adhere to proper nutritional guidance. He also urged them to become ambassadors of the healthier society they are being trained to promote.

Minister Anthony encouraged the trainees to continue advancing their knowledge in nutrition by utilizing online learning opportunities, such as the Coursera platform.

The programme is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry's Family and Primary Health Care Services, Food Policy Division and the Chronic Disease Unit.

Also present at the launch were Director of Family and Primary Health Care Services, Dr Ertenisa Hamilton; Director of the Health Sciences Education Division, Dr Chandroutie Persaud; Director of Disease Control (Non Communicable Diseases), Dr Latchmie Lall; Director of Food Policy (ag), Ms Gillian Trim; Health Education Officer, Ms Kim Bristol; and Senior Health Education Officer, Ms Georgel Abrams.



# Health Minister highlights major healthcare advancements at surgical symposium

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, highlighted Guyana's significant progress in healthcare development while addressing delegates at the Caribbean Chapter of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association's 10th Annual Educational Symposium, which was hosted in Guyana from March 7-8.

In his remarks, Minister Anthony welcomed the visiting delegates and acknowledged the leadership and medical professionals of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), noting the institution's growing role in advancing specialised surgical services in the country.

The Minister explained that hepatobiliary services at the hospital began around 2021 and have since expanded to include more complex surgical procedures. He noted that this progress has been supported through partnerships with international medical teams, particularly the Chinese Medical Brigade. Through this collaboration, visiting specialists work alongside local doctors, provide training opportunities, and donate critical medical equipment to help strengthen local capacity.

The Minister Anthony pointed out that partnerships with international companies have enabled Guyanese doctors to pursue specialised training in China. Under this initiative, local doctors first work with the Chinese medical team in Guyana before completing additional training in Chinese hospitals, where they gain exposure to a larger volume of complex cases and advanced surgical techniques.

Beyond surgical advancements, the Minister emphasised the government's continued investment in expanding Guyana's healthcare infrastructure. Over the past year, six new hospitals have been added to the country's network of public health facilities across several regions, significantly increasing access to quality healthcare services.

Additional hospitals are currently under construction in Regions One (Barima-Waini), Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara), Eight (Potaro-Siparuni) and Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo), while plans are also underway for a new hospital in Bartica, Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni).

The government is also currently making significant progress on the construction of a new Maternal and Paediatric hospital, as well as a modern facility for the New Amsterdam Hospital in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne).

The Minister stated that, while expanding healthcare infrastructure is critical, the development of skilled human resources remains equally important. In this regard, the government has collaborated with the University of Guyana (UG) to increase its annual intake of medical students from 60 to 120.

The Ministry of Health and the postgraduate institute at the GPHC are also expanding postgraduate medical training programmes to support the growing needs of the healthcare system.

Dr Anthony stressed the importance of strengthening research and academic publication within Guyana's health sector. Plans are currently underway to establish a new scientific medical journal titled, "Temerary," a name derived from an Arawak word meaning "writing on rock." The initiative aims to revive Guyana's historic tradition of medical publishing, while providing a platform for local researchers and clinicians to publish their work.

The Minister said the government is preparing new legislation to support clinical trials and establish a modern regulatory framework for medical research in Guyana.

Together, these initiatives form part of a broader vision

# Early diagnosis, treatment key to preventing kidney failure

-Health Minister

The Ministry of Health's Chronic Disease Unit, in collaboration with the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GHPC) and the University of Guyana (UG), on March 10 hosted a World Kidney Day Conference at the Herdmanston Lodge, on Peter Rose Street, Queenstown, Georgetown, under the theme, "Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet."

Delivering remarks, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, highlighted the growing impact of chronic diseases in Guyana, particularly diabetes and hypertension, which are major contributors to kidney disease.

He noted that the Ministry established a dedicated Chronic Disease Department in recent years to strengthen prevention, early detection and treatment services across the country.

The Minister emphasised the importance of early testing and encouraged the public to utilise the Ministry's health vouchers, which allow individuals to access important laboratory tests, including kidney function testing. These efforts have helped identify more persons at risk and support earlier intervention.

Dr Anthony outlined ongoing initiatives to expand dialysis services and strengthen kidney care nationwide. Additional dialysis machines are being placed in regional hospitals, while partnerships with non-governmental organisations and international institutions continue to support improved treatment and training.

The Minister noted Guyana's progress in kidney transplant services, with GHPC currently licensed



to transform Guyana into a regional hub for healthcare services, medical research and specialised training.

"We want to ensure that Guyana continues to expand the range of services available to patients while strengthening our institutions, training our professionals, and building partnerships that allow our healthcare system to grow," the Minister said.

He also encouraged visiting specialists and conference participants to explore opportunities for collaboration with local practitioners, noting that Guyana's expanding healthcare sector presents significant opportunities for knowledge exchange and service development.

The symposium has brought together regional and international experts in hepatopancreatic biliary surgery to share knowledge, discuss advances in surgical practice and explore opportunities for collaboration across the Caribbean.



to perform kidney transplants.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh, pointed out that kidney disease is often referred to as a “silent disease,” as many individuals may not realise they are affected until the condition has progressed.

He explained that chronic kidney disease is commonly linked to conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease, making prevention and early management of these illnesses critical.

Dr Singh said prevention of the disease requires a collaborative approach involving physicians, surgeons, public health professionals, policymakers and community leaders. He encouraged participants to use the conference as an opportunity to share knowledge, discuss challenges within the healthcare system, and explore practical solutions to improve patient care.

Dr Singh stressed that protecting kidney health begins with awareness, prevention, early diagnosis and compassionate care long before dialysis or transplantation becomes necessary.

Among those present were Director of Disease Control (Non Communicable Diseases), Dr Latchmie Lall; Director of Regional Health Services, Dr Cerdel Mc Watt; Director of Family and Primary Healthcare, Dr Ertenisa Hamilton; and other health officials.

# Health Minister hands over ambulances to support regional hospitals

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has handed over six ambulances to support the operations of the country’s newly commissioned regional hospitals.

The ambulances will serve the Lima Regional Hospital, Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam); De Kinderen Regional Hospital, Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara); Diamond Regional Hospital, Region Four (Demerara-Mahaica); Enmore Regional Hospital, also in Region Four; Bath Regional Hospital, Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice); and Number 75 Village Regional Hospital, Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne).

These facilities were recently opened as part of the government’s ongoing efforts to modernise and expand Guyana’s healthcare system. Each ambulance was procured at a cost of \$18 million and will strengthen emergency response capabilities, while also improving the safe and timely transportation of patients requiring urgent medical care.

This investment forms part of the Ministry of Health’s continued commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving access to quality health services across Guyana.

The handing over ceremony was held on March 13 at the Ministry’s headquarters on Brickdam, Georgetown. Also present were, Director General in the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo; Director of Regional Health Services, Dr Cerdel Mc Watt; Senior Operations Manager, Mr Michael Gouveia; and representatives of the respective regions.

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# Guyana strengthens cervical cancer response

The Ministry of Health is reinforcing its cervical cancer response efforts throughout Guyana with the handing over of thermal ablation devices to health authorities in all 10 administrative regions.

These devices will support the treatment of patients who test positive for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), particularly at regional hospitals across the country.

The handing over of the devices was done as part of a presentation at the Diamond Regional Hospital, East Bank Demerara on the Global Strategy for Cervical Cancer Elimination, which highlighted Guyana's pre-assessment findings and outlined strategic plans for advancing the management of cervical cancer locally.

The presentation was facilitated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in collaboration with key international partners. Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, attended the presentation, along with other health officials. This initiative is being implemented alongside ongoing colposcopy training for healthcare professionals, strengthening Guyana's capacity to provide timely and effective cervical cancer care.

The programme reflects a collaborative effort between PAHO, the Ministry of Health and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre, based in Texas in the U.S., as Guyana continues to advance towards improved prevention, early detection, and treatment of cervical cancer.



# Mass casualty management workshop strengthens Guyana's emergency response capacity

The Ministry of Health is taking steps to strengthen Guyana's capacity for coordinated and multi-agency national emergency response to situations where there could be mass casualties.

The Ministry, in partnership with the University of Miami, Florida in the U.S and the U.S. Air Force, under the Lesser Antilles Medical Assistance Team (LAMAT) 2026 Mission, conducted a Mass Casualty Management (MCM) training workshop from March 23-26.

The workshop, delivered using a trainer-of-trainers model, was held at the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) Headquarters, Thomas Lands in Georgetown. The programme trained two cohorts over consecutive two-day sessions.

Delivering brief remarks at the opening was Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, who underscored the importance of preparedness, collaboration and continuous training in safeguarding public health and national resilience.

Participants included representatives from regional health departments, Port Health, Emergency Medical Services, the CDC, the Disciplined Services, and the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). They engaged in a structured curriculum that integrates internationally recognized disaster-response methodologies with practical, scenario-based instruction.



# School health programme strengthened with Starlink connectivity

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on March 24 received 10 Starlink mini devices from the U.S.-based Mount Sinai Health System to support data collection and digital integration within Guyana's comprehensive school health screening programme.

These devices, which will be distributed across all 10 administrative regions, are intended to strengthen child and youth health screenings by enabling reliable internet connectivity even in remote and hinterland communities. This will allow school health teams to enter student screening data directly into a secure digital system, REDCap, in real time during school visits. REDCap is a secure web application for building and managing online surveys and databases.

This advancement is expected to significantly improve the efficiency and reach of health screenings conducted in nursery, primary, and secondary schools, while also generating timely data to guide decision making and enhance child and youth health programmes nationwide.

Speaking on the importance of the initiative, Minister Anthony highlighted that improved connectivity will

healthcare workers to better monitor student health outcomes and ensure timely interventions where needed.

At the handing over, Executive Director of Mount Sinai's Guyana National Healthcare Initiative, Dr Rachel Vreeman, underscored the importance of the collaboration in advancing system modernisation and strengthening care delivery across the country.

This initiative forms part of ongoing collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Mount Sinai, aimed at ensuring that critical health data is effectively captured and utilised to better support children and families across Guyana, while building a healthier future for the nation's youth.

Also present at the handing-over were Mount Sinai Country Director for Guyana, Dr Corey Hancock; Medical Director, Dr Tao Xu; Director of Family and Primary Healthcare Services, Dr Ertenisa Hamilton; Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the School Health Unit, Ms Lashonne McLeod-Johnson; and Optometrist attached to the School Health Programme, Mr Jessy Jessamy.

# Health Minister meets Swedish Ambassador to discuss shared priorities



Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on March 6 received a courtesy call from Non-Resident Ambassador of Sweden, Ms Maria Velasco, at the Health Ministry's Headquarters in Brickdam, Georgetown.

Following the courtesy call, the Minister also took the opportunity to meet with Ms Velasco. The two officials exchanged pleasantries and began discussions on areas of mutual interest.

The Ambassador was on an official visit to Guyana, part of which was spent meeting with Government of Guyana officials.

# Ministry of Health hosts International Women's Day conference

The Ministry of Health hosted a Women's Conference in observance of International Women's Day 2026, bringing together women for meaningful discussions centered on health, empowerment and overall well-being. The conference, held on March 6, addressed key issues affecting women across different stages of life, including mental health, physical fitness, nutrition, menstrual health, menopause and financial empowerment.

Participants also benefited from informative presentations on essential health topics, including breast self-examination and personal wellness. Additionally, the event provided a safe and supportive environment for impactful discussions on gender-based violence and the experiences of survivors, emphasizing the importance of awareness, support systems and resilience.

Among those in attendance were Chairperson of the Guyana Human Organ and Tissue Transplant Agency (HOATTA), Dr Shanti Singh-Anthony, and Director of Family and Primary Health Care at the Ministry of Health, Dr Ertenisa Hamilton along with other health officials.



# Health Minister joins Ramadan observances

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, joined members of the Strathavon, Cane Grove, Enmore, and Logwood masjids, all on the East Coast Demerara for Iftar, as part of Ramadan observances during the month of March.

Iftar is the meal served at sunset after the breaking of fast in the evening during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan to break the daily fast.

Ramadan is a sacred time observed by Muslims around the world, marked by fasting, prayer, reflection and sharing. Participating in Iftar together highlights the spirit of unity, compassion and togetherness that the holy month represents.



## Enmore Regional Hospital raises awareness about kidney health

The Enmore Regional Hospital, East Coast Demerara joined the global community in observing World Kidney Day on March 12, an important initiative dedicated to raising awareness about kidney health and the prevention of kidney disease.

To mark the occasion, the hospital's healthcare team hosted an awareness and sensitization booth, where members of the public received valuable information about kidney disease, including common facts and myths, risk factors and practical ways to protect kidney health. Visitors were encouraged to ask questions, receive educational materials and learn more about the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles, managing blood pressure and diabetes, and seeking early medical care.

The observance also focused on emphasizing that early detection, regular check-ups and healthy habits can significantly reduce the risk of kidney disease. Through these interactions, the team aimed to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to take proactive steps toward protecting their kidney health.

The Enmore Regional Hospital hosted the event as part of efforts to promote healthier lives through awareness, prevention and quality healthcare.

# Health Ministry celebrates Holi

The Ministry of Health was awash with vibrant colours and cultural pride, as staff gathered at its Brickdam Headquarters, Georgetown to celebrate Holi on March 2, the Festival of Colours.

The atmosphere was filled with joy, lively dancing and bright splashes of colour, symbolizing love, renewal and the triumph of good over evil.

Director General in the Ministry, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, delivered brief remarks, underscoring the importance of cultural appreciation and togetherness among all staff members and across the country.

The celebration highlighted the beauty of Guyana's diversity and the unity that strengthens the country as a nation.



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