



# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela

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## **ASEAN and friends: Bowling tournament**



On Saturday, March 9, the ASEAN and Friends Bowling Tournament took place in Prados del Este, Caracas. What a wonderful Saturday! H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles joined the Bowling Tournament hosted by ASEAN and Friends. It was a delightful moment, mingling with the ASEAN Community and fellow diplomats in Venezuela.



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from Venezuela

## *In This Issue*

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## **Courtesy Visit to H.E. Mr. Yvan Gil, Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs**



Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Yván Gil, met on Friday, March 8, 2024 with H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, Venezuela. At the meeting aspects such as:

Strengthening ties and collaboration for effective communication in the midst of the territorial controversy between Guyana and Venezuela.

To follow up on the Binational Joint Commission, established in Brazil at the beginning of 2024 to promote dialogue according to the Argyle Declaration.

Other issues of interest between both nations.

## Official Visit to Nueva Esparta State: Meeting with the Guyanese diaspora in Juan Griego

On March 13, 2024, an Official Visit was made to the State of Nueva Esparta, headed by H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles.

The Ambassador met with more than 30 Guyanese citizens in the city of Juan Griego, where they shared pleasant moments, clarified doubts on Consular matters, listened to concerns and questions from the community. The Ambassador expressed his constant support and closeness to the Guyanese diaspora, echoing the message of unity, cooperation and harmony of His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana.



## Consular Visit Nueva Esparta State

On Wednesday, March 13, 2024, Ambassador and his team conducted a Consular Visit to two Guyanese citizens detained since December 2022 at the National Bolivarian Police Guard Center in Sabana Mar, Porlamar. They engaged in conversations, verified their health status, and addressed their concerns and requests regarding Consular matters.





## Participation of H.E. Dr Van West-Charles at the Palm Sunday Mass

Honored to have had the presence of H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Venezuela, at the Palm Sunday Mass on Sunday, March 24, 2024, in the city of Lecheria, Anzoátegui State, Venezuela.

## Meeting with Businesspersons in Lecheria, Anzoátegui State

Over the weekend of March 23rd and 24th, 2024, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of Guyana to Caracas, met with Venezuelan entrepreneurs in Lecherías as part of his Official Visit to Anzoátegui State. Discussions focused on investment opportunities in Guyana and fostering trade between Venezuela and Guyana. These productive meetings aim to promote cooperation and integration through healthy and beneficial commercial exchanges.





## Meeting with Vessels owners and Captains in Puerto Ordaz

Last Friday, March 22, 2024, as part of H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of Guyana to Caracas, and his delegation's Official Visit to Puerto Ordaz, Bolivar State, an essential meeting was held at the Office of the Honorary Consul of Guyana in Puerto Ordaz, Mr. Patrick Husain. Owners and Captains of vessels facilitating transportation from San Félix to Guyana participated. Discussions emphasized the significance of vessel registration, ensuring compliance with laws and thorough verification of passengers' documentation, fostering legal and safe travel for both Guyanese and Venezuelan passengers.

## Consular Visit to El Tigre

As part of H.E. Van West-Charles's Official Visit to Anzoátegui State last Saturday, March 23, 2024, a Consular Visit was conducted in the city of El Tigre. Guyanese nationals present received consular assistance, reaffirming our commitment to serving our citizens wherever they may be.





## Meeting with the Guyanese Diaspora in El Tigre

H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles's visit to El Tigre, Anzoátegui State on March 23, 2024, was filled with warmth and meaningful exchanges with the Guyanese diaspora. Discussions ranged from life experiences to the importance of communication with the embassy in Caracas. Emphasis was placed on keeping Birth Registrations, Passports, and Guyanese IDs up to date. Additionally, the Ambassador addressed the territorial controversy between Venezuela and Guyana, highlighting historical aspects such as the 1899 Paris Arbitral Award and the Geneva Agreement. He stressed the importance of letting the ICJ resolve the matter and emphasized the need for cooperation, dialogue, and the establishment of a Zone of Peace, echoing President Mohamed Irfaan Ali's vision

## Floral Wreath 254th Anniversary of the Haitian General Alexandre Sabes Petion

On Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024, a Floral Wreath was held to commemorate the 254th Anniversary Birth of the Haitian General Alexandre Sabes Petion. H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador, attended on behalf of the Embassy of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas and was accompanied by various Ambassadors accredited in Venezuela who were present in El Paraíso, Caracas.



## Meeting with Mr Jose Hurtado from "Nota Diplomatica"

A fruitful meeting between H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador, with Mr. José Hurtado from Nota Diplomática Magazine. Stimulating discussions were held, exploring innovative proposals and agendas regarding the embassy's information and communication strategies. Stay tuned for more updates on our collaborative efforts



## Courtesy Visit H.E. Fadel Alhasan, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Caracas

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, marked a momentous occasion as H.E. Fadel Alhasan, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Venezuela, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas. The meeting was filled with warmth, fruitful dialogue, and a shared commitment to peace. It underscored the deepening bonds of friendship between Guyana and Kuwait, paving the way for enhanced cooperation and mutual understanding. Here's to continued collaboration and solidarity between our nations!





## Courtesy Visit to H.E. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko, Ambassador of South Africa in Caracas.

We are delighted to share that H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, made a Courtesy Visit to H.E. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko, Ambassador of South Africa in Caracas, Venezuela, on Thursday, April 18, 2024. 🍷 This visit underscores the warmth and cooperation between our two nations.

Strong diplomatic relations between Guyana and South Africa are pivotal for fostering bilateral cooperation, promoting economic growth, and advancing shared interests on regional and global issues. These ties serve as a foundation for mutual understanding, collaboration in trade and investment, and joint efforts towards peace and development. By fostering diplomatic relations, both nations can leverage each other's strengths and navigate common challenges effectively, contributing to a more interconnected and prosperous world





## Courtesy Visit to Honorable Mr. Adebowale Johnson Badewole, Charge d'Affaires of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Caracas

On Monday, April 22, 2024, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, paid a Courtesy Visit to the Honorable Mr. Adebowale Johnson Badewole, Chargé d'Affaires of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Caracas, Venezuela.



H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, in attendance at the Floral Wreath at the Venezuelan National Pantheon, on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Palestine and Venezuela. Guyana stands as a steadfast defender of diplomatic relations with Palestine and Venezuela, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the invitation from the Embassy of Palestine in Venezuela, recognizing the Palestinian cause and highlighting the bonds of unity and diplomatic cooperation between Guyana and Palestine





**Courtesy Visit from H.E. Mohamed Salem Ali Ergueibi, Ambassador of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic**

On April 29, 2024, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, received a Courtesy Visit from H.E. Mohamed Salem Ali Ergueibi, Ambassador of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, and Honorable Mr. Mohamed Zrug Larosi, In charge for Latin America and the Caribbean affairs

**Floral Wreath 30th Anniversary of South Africa Freedom Day**

H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, Venezuela, participated in the Floral Wreath ceremony in the National Pantheon of Venezuela, commemorating the 30th Anniversary of South Africa's Freedom Day on April 30, 2024





**Co-operative Republic of Guyana**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

254 South Road & Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, Georgetown, Guyana

**Statement by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana**

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana has taken note of the action taken today, April 3, 2024, by the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to promulgate “the Organic Law for the Defense of Guayana Esequiba.”

This attempt by Venezuela to annex more than two-thirds of Guyana’s sovereign territory and make it part of Venezuela is an egregious violation of the most fundamental principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the Charter of the Organisation of American States and customary international law. It also contradicts the letter and spirit of the Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela agreed to on December 14, 2023 in St Vincent and the Grenadines. This unlawful act calls into question Venezuela’s obligation to abide by the principles of that Declaration. In this light, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana wishes to put on notice the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Governments of the Caribbean Community and the Latin American and Caribbean Community of Nations, as well as the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, that it will not countenance the annexation, seizure or occupation of any part of its sovereign territory. Guyana has always stood by the principles of the United Nations Charter, the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

It is as a result of the 1966 Geneva Agreement, to which Venezuela and Guyana are parties, that the International Court of Justice has ruled that it has jurisdiction to make a decision on the case brought before it by Guyana regarding the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award which definitively settled the land boundary between the two countries. The Court’s decision will be final and binding on both parties. If Venezuela wants to contest title to the territory in question, the proper forum is the International Court of Justice, which will decide the issue objectively and according to the law.

Furthermore, the offensive and undignified statements made by President Maduro about the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana have not gone unnoticed. It is unfortunate that the commitment made at Argyle to “the pursuance of good neighborliness, peaceful coexistence, and the unity of Latin America and the Caribbean” is now again seriously threatened by President Maduro’s words and action today.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
April 3, 2024



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### Statement by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana takes notice that the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a submission today to the International Court of Justice in keeping with the Court's stipulated timeline for the receipt of Venezuela's Counter Memorial on the merits of the case concerning the *Arbitral Award of 3 October 1899 (Guyana v. Venezuela)* which is pending before it.

This case, which was filed by Guyana in March 2018, seeks the Court's decision on the validity of the Arbitral Award which finally determined the land boundary between the two countries. The Court has already ruled that it has jurisdiction over the controversy and will decide the issue on the merits.

Guyana has repeatedly called on Venezuela to participate fully in the judicial proceedings and comply with the Court's rulings, and therefore welcomes Venezuela's submissions on the substantive issues that the Court will ultimately decide. Guyana notes that CARICOM and the Commonwealth and other members of the international community have also been urging Venezuela to participate in the proceedings before the ICJ.

Guyana considers that it is beneficial to the Court to have before it the submissions of both parties on the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award and the settlement of the international boundary. Guyana made its submissions in April 2023. With the submissions of both States before it, the Court will be able to take all arguments and evidence into account and issue a more informed judgement, which will be final and binding on the parties.

Guyana has consistently pledged to abide by the Court's Judgement.

April 8, 2024

# Venezuela's actions threaten regional peace, security - OAS, CARICOM

April 8th, 2024

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have condemned the Venezuelan government's approval of the "Law for the Defense of Essequibo," which attempts to annex more than two-thirds of Guyana's territory and make it part of Venezuela.

In a press release issued on Monday, the OAS secretariat stated that this action is contrary to the most basic principles of international law and indicative of the country's "dictatorial pattern."

"Regional peace and security depend on stopping the Venezuelan regime from advancing these threatening objectives," the statement read.



# Venezuela's actions threaten regional peace, security – OAS, CARICOM

April 8th, 2024

It continued, "International Law condemns the crime of aggression, condemns the threat of aggression, condemns unilateral actions to resolve bilateral problems, condemns non-compliance and violation of current Arbitration Awards, and as an international community, we must condemn bellicose attitudes and intimidation of countries and international actors."

The OAS once again signalled its backing for Guyana and commended the country's firm stance in respecting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in this case.

CARICOM has also added to the heap of international condemnation for Venezuela's expansionist agenda, deeming its latest move an 'unacceptable' and 'potentially dangerous' escalation of tensions.

"In its adoption of "the Organic Law", the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has acted unilaterally, precipitously, and potentially, dangerously. In the process, it has: (i) offended "the Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela" of 14 December 2023; (ii) subverted international law; and (iii) signaled a possible embrace of an unworthy aggression to achieve its own articulated goals or purposes," the community said in a statement released on Monday. CARICOM also impressed upon the Venezuelan government to refrain from any further actions that would hinder regional and hemispheric peace and stability.

The community urged patience and calmness, as the two countries await the ruling from the International Court of Justice.

"We insist that dialogue and adherence to international law are the only viable paths to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the issues at hand. The alternatives are too horrific to contemplate."

On Monday, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali reaffirmed his government's commitment to the maintenance of peace in the region, and its respect for the principles of international law.

The longstanding border controversy between Guyana and Venezuela was settled through an Arbitral Award in 1899.

However, during the 1960s, when Guyana was on the brink of gaining independence, Venezuela's claims to the country's territory resurged.

The case was subsequently taken to the ICJ, where it awaits a ruling.

In the case, Guyana is seeking that the court affirm the validity and binding effect of the 1899 Award.

# UN Security Council to discuss Venezuela's increasing moves to seize Essequibo; CARICOM worried about "unworthy aggression"

8 April 2024

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is Tuesday set to discuss Venezuela's latest effort to lay claim to the Essequibo Region, a move that the 15-nation Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is worried that could lead to physical action against Guyana.

CARICOM said that in its adoption of "the Organic Law for the Defence of Guyana Essequiba", the Venezuelan government has acted unilaterally, precipitously, and potentially, dangerously. In the process, it has... signaled a possible embrace of an unworthy aggression to achieve its own articulated goals or purposes," CARICOM said.

Foreign Secretary, Robert Persaud said the UNSC would meet on Tuesday, at President Irfaan Ali's request, to address Venezuela's President, Nicolas Maduro's "violation of the rules of international law" that require States to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of others. He also said the UNSC meeting would be held against the backdrop of the International Court of Justice's order that prohibits Venezuela from taking any action that interferes with Guyana's administration of the 160,000 square kilometre Essequibo Region.

Foreign Affairs Minister Hugh Todd said that after the deliberations Guyana would be expecting the UNSC to issue a strong statement that "conforms to the rule of international law." He explained that Guyana decided to ask the UNSC to discuss Venezuela's latest actions because all nation states subscribe to the UN Charter. "Fundamentally, the UN Security Council is the premier organ to discuss Venezuela's violations is what is necessary as a member of the international community," he said.

CARICOM said Venezuela's adoption of the "Organic Law" means that country has acted unilaterally, precipitously, and potentially, dangerously and so has offended "the Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela" of 14 December 2023 and subverted international law.

The regional bloc said the "unacceptable escalation of tensions" between the two South American neighbours "has threatened to undermine peace and security in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Venezuela, through the referendum, has already included Essequibo in its official map.

Earlier Monday, Guyana welcomed Venezuela's decision to submit its key arguments to the International Court of Justice, saying that doing so would allow that judicial body to "take all arguments and evidence into account and issue a more informed judgement, which will be final and binding on the parties."

But Venezuela defended its decision to submit its main arguments to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the border dispute with Guyana, saying it does not change its position of non-recognition of that United Nations (UN) judicial body. "The delivery of this document does not imply the consent of Venezuela or the recognition of the jurisdiction of the Court in the territorial controversy over Guayana Esequiba, nor of the decision it may adopt on this matter," the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Venezuela said it wants Guyana to return to bilateral talks which the latter has said were fruitless after 50 years. Guyana in 2018 asked the ICJ to determine the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Tribunal Award that settled the land boundary with its Spanish-speaking neighbour.

# **UN Security Council supports respect for territorial integrity, international law- Guyana**

## **11 April 2024**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Tuesday unanimously supported respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law, at a closed door meeting that Guyana requested to address Venezuela's moves to possibly seize the Essequibo Region.

"I think Venezuela found it hard to find a friend," a source told Demerara Waves Online News on condition of anonymity. "I think the meeting sent a very clear message to Venezuela and that was important," the official added.

The UNSC would likely issue a statement on the outcome of the meeting. President Irfaan Ali requested the UNSC meeting after Venezuela adopted a law that seeks to annex the 160,000 square kilometre Essequibo Region, despite orders by the World Court and a bilateral declaration that there must be no escalation of tensions.

Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, was quoted by the Spanish news agency, Agencia EFE as saying that "a large majority" of the UNSC members demonstrated their support for Guyana's territorial integrity.



# **UN Security Council supports respect for territorial integrity, international law- Guyana**

## **11 April 2024**

No official statement has so far been issued by the Council, but the United Kingdom's 'X' feed at the UN said the Security Council met to discuss Venezuela's threats to Guyana's territory, and made that Western Nation's position clear on the issue. "Venezuela cannot act unilaterally to disrupt the peace of the region. The border was settled in 1899 through international arbitration and must be respected," the UK said.

Other sources told Demerara Waves Online News that Guyana received "strong support from the Western democracies" on the rule of international law, use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to settle the border dispute, maintaining peace in Latin America and the Caribbean, "strict adherence" to the ICJ's orders that Venezuela must not take any action against Guyana's administration and control of the Essequibo Region, and President Irfaan Ali and President Nicolás Maduro's Declaration for Dialogue and Peace.

One source familiar with the meeting said China and Russia's support were a "bit more nuanced but they weren't ambivalent which is good" and another said for those two UNSC Permanent Members it was more about bilateral relations and solving it (border dispute) bilaterally". However, Guyana continues to maintain that, based on a 1966 agreement, the ICJ is the proper mechanism to settle the dispute over the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Tribunal Award that settled the land boundary between the two South American neighbours.

# UN Security Council supports respect for territorial integrity, international law- Guyana

11 April 2024

Back in December 2023, the Russian foreign ministry had said that “In our view, this is a matter of #Venezuela-#Guyana relations and should be settled in a neighbourly way.”

Guyana enjoys diplomatic relations with China and Russia.

The 10 other non-permanent UNSC members, the sources, said, also supported the “rule of international law”. “There was no dissent on support for Guyana and the respect for territorial integrity and the adherence to international law,” one of the sources told Demerara Waves Online News.

Agencia EFE reported that Venezuela’s Ambassador to the United Nations, Samuel Moncada Acosta, who was present at the session, ruled out any occupation plan, but Guyana’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett did not believe him because, according to her, “words say one thing and actions say another.”

Venezuela has been repeatedly accusing Guyana of allowing the United States’ establishment of secret military bases here to launch an attack on the eastern and northern part of that Spanish-speaking nation. In his effort to rally support for the July 28, 2024 elections, President Maduro has claimed that Guyana has been aligning itself with the US Southern Command, Central Intelligence Agency, ExxonMobil and the United Kingdom to take control of the Essequibo Region.

The “Security Council Report” website stated that in the letter that requested Tuesday’s meeting, Ali cited the “Organic Law for the Defense of Guayana Esequiba”, which Maduro signed on 3 April. He warned that this action “cements Venezuela’s intent to annex more than two-thirds of Guyana’s sovereign territory and make it part of Venezuela”. Maduro described the law as the implementation of the results of the 3 December 2023 referendum. He added that the law “establishes the creation of state number 24, the state of Guayana Esequiba within the political and territorial organization of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela”. The law also reiterated Venezuela’s rejection of the validity of the 1899 Paris Arbitral Award and the ICJ’s jurisdiction on the matter.

In his 5 April letter, Ali said that the law violates the ICJ’s 1 December 2023 provisional measures and expressed concern that given Caracas’ disregard of this order, “Venezuela’s next move would be to implement its plan for the seizure of our sovereign territory”. He added that such an act would be a breach of the fundamental principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter and would contradict the letter and spirit of the Argyle Declaration. The letter also rejects recent claims made by Maduro that the US has installed CIA bases in Essequibo, calling it a “dangerous narrative”.

**STATEMENT FROM THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL OF FOREIGN AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
(COFCOR) ON THE ESCALATING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT**

April 14th 2024



**The Caribbean Community Council of Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) views with grave concern the escalating violence in the Middle East, particularly the recent direct military engagements between Israel and Iran. These developments not only exacerbate the already tense situation but also pose significant threats to regional stability and international peace.**

**The continued cycle of retaliation, including the recent attack on Israel by Hamas, Israel's disproportionate response in Gaza, and the alarming new dimension of direct confrontations between Israel and Iran, leads to an untenable situation fraught with potential for greater regional conflict and global instability.**

# **STATEMENT FROM THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF FOREIGN AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS (COFCOR) ON THE ESCALATING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT**

April 14th 2024



**The human toll of this conflict, highlighted by tragic incidents such as deaths and injuries to children, demand an immediate and empathetic response from the global community. It is imperative that there be no further escalation that can lead to more suffering and instability.**

**In light of this critical situation, COFCOR urgently calls for:**

- An immediate cessation of hostilities between Israel and Iran. We strongly urge both nations to halt any further military actions that could worsen the situation, endangering not only their own populations but also the broader international community.**
- The international community, particularly the five Veto-nations on the UN Security Council, to work assiduously towards an immediate ceasefire, ensuring the provision of necessary humanitarian aid and fostering conditions conducive to a lasting peace**
- All involved parties to re-engage in diplomatic dialogue, prioritizing peaceful resolutions and cooperation over military actions.**

**As nations committed to the principles of justice and peace, the Caribbean Community stands ready to support efforts toward de-escalation and the establishment of a durable peace in the region.**

**We implore all parties to consider the severe consequences of further conflict and to commit to diplomatic solutions that ensure the safety, sovereignty, and dignity of all people involved.**

# CARICOM STATEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HAITIAN PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL



The Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) welcome the news today of the publication of the decree establishing the Transitional Presidential Council in Haiti. The establishment of the nine-member broad-based, politically inclusive Council signals the possibility of a new beginning for Haiti.

CARICOM has supported Haiti, its sister nation, through the challenging process of arriving at a Haitian owned formula for governance that will take the troubled country through elections to the restoration of the lapsed state institutions and constitutional government. Following on from the agreements reached in Kingston, Jamaica, on 11 March, which brought together a diverse group of Haitian political, private sector, civil society and faith-based stakeholders, the Transitional Presidential Council has devised a framework setting out the creation, organization and functioning of the Council, and arrived at a Political Accord that articulates the way forward.

The CARICOM Heads of Government fully endorse the principles of the Political Accord, and in particular take note of Article 16 which states, "The mission of the Presidential Council is to put Haiti back on the road to dignity, democratic legitimacy, stability and sovereignty and to ensure the proper functioning of the State's institutions".

It is also clear that one of the first priorities of the newly installed Presidential Council will be to urgently address the security situation so that Haitians can go about their daily lives in a normal manner; safely access food, water and medical services; children can return to school; women can move around without fear of horrific abuses; and so that businesses can reopen.

There are still daunting challenges ahead. CARICOM stands ready to continue to support the Haitian people and their leaders as they determine their future in a sovereign manner through this transitional period on the path to stability, security and long-term sustainable development for Haiti.

12 April 2024

# STATEMENT FROM THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS (COFCOR) ON CUBA



The Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) welcomes the decision of the Government of the United States of America (USA) to remove the Republic of Cuba from its list of states that are “not cooperating fully” in its fight against terrorism.

COFCOR notes, however, that the Republic of Cuba remains on the US State Department’s list of countries that have been deemed by the USA to be State Sponsors of Terrorism. COFCOR therefore, renews its call for the urgent removal of Cuba from the list of countries deemed to be State Sponsors of Terrorism.

COFCOR also reaffirms its rejection of the unilateral imposition by the United States of America of the economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba. Both the designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism and the 62-year-old embargo are unjust and wrongly imposed upon the Cuban people and must be terminated.

**ROSEAU**

**24 MAY 2024**

## Courtesy Visit to H.E. Lan Hu, People's Republic of China Ambassador in Caracas, Venezuela



On April 25th, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Lan Hu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Caracas. The meeting underscored the strong and enduring friendship between Guyana and China.

During the visit, both ambassadors highlighted the importance of continued cooperation in various sectors. They discussed shared goals and the potential for further collaboration to benefit both nations.

H.E. Dr. Van West-Charles expressed his gratitude for the longstanding support and partnership from China. He emphasized that the bonds of friendship between Guyana and China are rooted in mutual respect and a shared vision for progress and prosperity.

H.E. Lan Hu reciprocated the sentiments, acknowledging the significant contributions of Guyana in fostering a robust bilateral relationship. He reaffirmed China's commitment to strengthening ties and exploring new avenues for cooperation.

The visit concluded with a reaffirmation of the strong diplomatic relations between Guyana and China, and a shared commitment to furthering the partnership for the benefit of both countries.



## **Courtesy Visit to H.E. Mr. Fadi Alzaben, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Venezuela**

Strengthening ties! H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, paid a Courtesy Visit to H.E. Fadi Alzaben, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Venezuela on May 10th, 2024. Here's to celebrating the enduring relationship between Guyana and Palestine

## **Meeting with the Swiss-Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce Representatives**

On May 14, 2024 a meeting was held between the Ambassador, Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, accompanied by Dr. Ganga Persaud, Political Attache of the Embassy with representatives of the Swiss-Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce, interested in investment and business opportunities in Guyana.

Ambassador Van West-Charles highlighted the benefits of Guyana as an investment receiving country and ample opportunities for private investment, highlighting key aspects of the Guyana Invest 55 Brochure and the Guyana Invest Passport.





## Embassy of Guyana, Caracas celebrates Guyana's 58th Anniversary of Independence Day

On Sunday, May 26, 2024, the Embassy of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas held a Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate the 58th anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana Independence Day. This wonderful event included the Embassy staff and members of the Guyanese diaspora in Caracas. The ceremony featured the National Pledge, Muslim, Hindu, and Christian prayers, and a heartfelt speech by H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles.



Part of the speech by H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, as part of the 58th Independence Anniversary:

"Today marks the 58th birth anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. As we reflect on our journey towards prosperity, we must also acknowledge the shadows of falsehood spread by social media. Yet, our commitment to independence and global values shines brighter.

On this special day, we celebrate not only our achievements but also the increasing global recognition of Statehood for Palestine. Guyana's steadfast support for liberation struggles, including Southern Africa, and our President's dedication to Climate Change, Food Security, and Energy Security, are testaments to our nation's enduring spirit.

As we honor the legacy of our Founding Fathers, Dr. Cheddi Bharat Jagan and Cde Linden Forbes Burnham, let us remember their vision of unity and resilience. Our Guyanese identity is our guiding light, ensuring peace and happiness for all".

## Book Donation to the "Pulperia del Libro" in Caracas

As part of the cultural exchange, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, has donated a series of literary works to our friends at "La Gran Pulpería del Libro." This magical space is dedicated to reading, culture, and preserving Venezuela's literary heritage.



## Meeting with South Korean Embassy Delegation

As part of the Diplomatic exchange and excellent relations between Guyana and South Korea, on Friday, May 31st, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas attended with part of his staff a lunch sponsored by the Honorable Mr. Hanuk Chung, Chargé d'Affaires, First Secretary Mrs. Ahreum Lee, Second Secretary and Consul Mr. Inyong Hwang and Third Secretary and Administrator Mrs. Hye Moon Lee.





THE EMBASSY OF THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC  
OF GUYANA IS PLEASED TO GREET ALL ITS  
USERS. WE INFORM YOU THAT AS OF TODAY,  
MONDAY JUNE 3, 2024, THE EMBASSY WILL BE  
LOCATED AT THE COINASA CENTER BUILDING,  
PH LEVEL, ALTAMIRA, CHACAO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN WRITE TO  
US AT:

[INFOGUYANA.CARACAS@MISSION.GOV.GY](mailto:INFOGUYANA.CARACAS@MISSION.GOV.GY)

TEL: 0424 1264347

**EMBASSY OF THE CO-OPERATIVE  
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA-CARACAS**



**Courtesy Visit from H.E. Kareem Essameldin Amin, Ambassador of Egypt in Caracas, and the Deputy Chief of Mission of Egypt in Caracas, the Honorable Mr. Mohammad Abdelwahab**

On Thursday, June 6, 2024, we were honored to welcome H.E. Kareem Essameldin Amin, Ambassador of Egypt in Caracas, and the Deputy Chief of Mission of Egypt in Caracas, the Honorable Mr. Mohammad Abdelwahab, to our new headquarters. Guyana strengthens its commitment to cooperation and friendship with Egypt.

**Courtesy Visit from Honorable Mr. Shalihin Bin Annuar, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Malaysia in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, received the Courtesy Visit of the Honorable Mr. Shalihin Bin Annuar, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Malaysia in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.



## CARICOM Member State Chiefs of Mission Caucus

On June 14, 2024 at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, H.E. Dr. Van West-Charles participated in a meeting of the Caucus of Heads of Mission of CARICOM Member States in Venezuela, where they discussed some issues of relevance to the parties.



Part of the Caucus discussion focused on the visit by members of the group to the Acevedo Municipality of Miranda State, Venezuela, as well as the upcoming celebrations of the 51st anniversary of the Caribbean Community, and a presentation by the Ambassador of Egypt to Venezuela, H.E. Kareem Essam El Din Amin, on the nomination of Egypt for the post of Director-General of UNESCO.



## **Courtesy Visit to H.E. Sergey Melik Bagdasarov, Russian Federation Ambassador in Caracas, Venezuela.**

On June 20, 2024, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Sergey Melik-Bagdasarov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Caracas. This visit underscored the importance of the strong and cooperative relationship between Russia and Guyana.

During the meeting, both ambassadors discussed the importance of their bilateral relations and explored opportunities to enhance collaboration in various areas. They highlighted the mutual benefits of their partnership and the potential for future initiatives to strengthen their ties.

H.E. Dr. Van West-Charles expressed his appreciation for the support and cooperation extended by Russia to Guyana. He highlighted the longstanding friendship between the two nations and the shared values that underpin their diplomatic relations.

The visit concluded with a reaffirmation of the strong diplomatic relations between Russia and Guyana, and a shared dedication to furthering their partnership for the mutual benefit of both nations.