



# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela

## Message from the Ambassador of Guyana in Venezuela, Dr. Richard Van West-Charles

To the entire Guyanese community, members of the diplomatic core accredited to Venezuela, honourable Ambassadors, colleagues in diplomatic missions around the world, and dear friends of Guyana:

As we begin this year 2025, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the support and closeness you have shown towards our Diplomatic Mission in Caracas. Your support has been the foundation upon which we continue to strengthen the ties between Guyana and Venezuela, and promote new opportunities for growth and collaboration.

We enthusiastically celebrate the growing interest of over 60 Venezuelan companies eager to invest and doing business in Guyana, reflecting the immense potential that unites our nations. I also want to acknowledge our vibrant Guyanese diaspora in Venezuela, with whom we have forged closer ties through WhatsApp and social media, creating a more united, stronger, and more connected community than ever.

With optimism and determination, I invite you to welcome this new year with renewed energy and to enjoy this 5th edition of the Guyanese Gazette, a space that continues to bear witness to the dynamism and resilience of our people.

May 2025 bring us more opportunities, more successes, and an even brighter future for Guyana and all its friends around the world!

**Dr. Richard Van West-Charles**

**Ambassador of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in Caracas**

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Official Visit to Bolivar State: Meeting with the Guyanese diaspora at Honorary Consulate of Guyana in Puerto Ordaz

On November 22, 2024, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, accompanied by his delegation, made an Official Visit to Bolivar State. During this visit, they met at the Honorary Consulate of Guyana in Puerto Ordaz, where they engaged with representatives of the Guyanese diaspora residing in the region.

The meeting provided an invaluable opportunity to hear diverse perspectives on the transformative social policies introduced by President Irfaan Ali's government. Key discussions also covered consular matters, including birth certificates, passports, and marriage certificates. Ambassador Van West-Charles emphasized the importance of keeping identification documents updated and encouraged the diaspora to actively participate in Guyana's growth and development.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our Honorary Consul, Mr. Patrick Husain, and his wife, Mrs. Bibi Husain, for their warm hospitality and unwavering commitment to serving the Guyanese community.

Together, we continue to strengthen the bonds that unite us as one Guyanese family, working toward a brighter future for all

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Visit to the First Company D-625 of the Bolivarian National Guard (P.A.C. Ferrys and Chalanas) in Ciudad Guayana, Bolivar State, Venezuela

On Saturday, November 23, 2024, His Excellency Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, accompanied by his dedicated team, visited the First Company D-625 of the Bolivarian National Guard (P.A.C. Ferrys and Chalanas) in Ciudad Guayana.

During a productive dialogue with representatives of the Mayor's Office of Caroní and the Bolivarian National Guard, as well as the captains of the vessels operating in the area, key measures were reaffirmed to enhance passenger safety and uphold legal travel standards:

- Mandatory life jackets for all passengers
- Proper travel documentation
- Travel through legally authorized ports
- Maintenance of vessels to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all passengers

The Ambassador emphasized the supreme commitment of the Government of Guyana to respecting legal ports for passenger boarding and departure while reinforcing the importance of maintaining vessels in optimal condition.

Dr. Van West-Charles also engaged with travelers, predominantly Venezuelans heading to Guyana, reminding them to:

- Stay up-to-date with vaccinations
- Carry valid documentation
- Prioritize the protection of minors' lives and rights

He further stressed the importance of combating human trafficking and ensuring a safe, dignified, and secure journey for all travelers. Together, we stand committed to protecting lives and strengthening cooperation between Guyana and Venezuela.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Visit to the "San José de Cacahual" Community in Bolívar State, Venezuela

As part of an active agenda of commitments with the Guyanese diaspora in Bolívar State, His Excellency Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, held a vibrant and heartfelt meeting with over 40 Guyanese residents in the San José de Cacahual community.

During the gathering, the Ambassador highlighted the critical importance of keeping all personal documentation up to date, including IDs, passports, birth certificates, marriage records, and other essential paperwork.

Dr. Van West-Charles also shared key updates on advancements in energy, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social benefits being led by the Government of H.E. Irfaan Ali. He encouraged attendees to stay informed about the progress and opportunities available in Guyana.

This enriching meeting fostered connection, friendship, and learning, as we continue to build bridges with the Guyanese community abroad.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Connecting with the Guyanese Diaspora in “Brisas del Sur”, Bolivar State, Venezuela

On Saturday, November 23, 2024, as part of a dynamic and active agenda, His Excellency Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, visited Guyanese residents in Brisas del Sur, Bolívar State.

During the meeting, the Ambassador shared important updates on the progress and development initiatives being led by the Government of H.E. Irfaan Ali, including advancements in infrastructure, energy, education, healthcare, social benefits, and road networks.

The Ambassador emphasized the importance of keeping personal documentation current, including IDs, passports, birth certificates, and marriage records. Residents were also encouraged to join the Embassy's WhatsApp groups to maintain close contact with the Honorary Consul in Puerto Ordaz, Mr. Patrich Husain, and the Embassy in Caracas.

This meaningful visit reaffirmed the Embassy's commitment to fostering connections with Guyanese abroad while ensuring they stay informed and empowered.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



**Meet Ms. Shaneeza Persaud, the Student who moved to Guyana from Venezuela and is UG's Valedictorian**

Dear Shaneeza, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on your remarkable achievement as the Valedictorian of the University of Guyana, Class of 2024. Your exemplary performance in the Bachelor of Science in Marketing program at the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation is a testament to your unwavering dedication, resilience, and pursuit of excellence.

Your journey, marked by the unique challenges of navigating academic pursuits across borders, is truly inspiring. Balancing virtual studies from abroad and adapting to diverse environments while maintaining an exceptional academic record speaks volumes of your determination and adaptability. Such qualities are commendable and set a sterling example for students and professionals alike.

Dr. Richard Van West -Charles  
Ambassador

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Historic Visit to the Guyanese Diaspora in Tucupita, Delta Amacuro State, Venezuela

For the first time in history, the Embassy of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas visited the Guyanese community in Tucupita, Delta Amacuro. This heartfelt and vibrant gathering was met with great appreciation by the Guyanese residents of the region, who expressed their gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of Guyana, and his team for their presence.

In this historic meeting, Dr. Van West-Charles thanked the attendees and Mr. Patrick Husain, Honorary Consul of Guyana in Puerto Ordaz, for facilitating the contacts and logistics that made this significant visit possible.

The Ambassador emphasized the importance of maintaining constant communication with the Embassy and the Honorary Consul to ensure closeness, transparency, and most importantly, legality.

Dr. Van West-Charles listened to the community's concerns and shared updates on the tremendous progress Guyana is making, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, energy, healthcare, and more, thanks to the leadership of H.E. Irfaan Ali.

We also congratulated the Singh family, who received their Birth Certificates as new citizens of Guyana, marking an important milestone in their journey.

This will not be the last visit to Delta Amacuro – the Embassy is committed to continued engagement and support for the Guyanese diaspora in the region.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## **AWARDS NIGHT: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND DEDICATION**

On Thursday, 5th December 2024, the Residence of His Excellency Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, and his esteemed wife, Mrs Vivienne Roxane Van West-Charles, hosted the memorable Staff Awards Ceremony.

This vibrant occasion honoured the years of service of our dedicated Embassy team, with special recognition for milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, and even 30 years of commitment! Additionally, Academic Merit Awards were presented to the Honourable Mr Robin Motayne, Counsellor of the Embassy, and Mr Daniel Achuelos Davis, Head of Communications.

The evening was filled with joy and emotion as the Embassy staff celebrated alongside their loved ones in a spirit of gratitude and recognition. In his inspiring speech, His Excellency Dr Van West-Charles applauded the team's hard work and dedication, encouraging everyone to strive for excellence, pursue education, and be exemplary citizens.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the families, friends of Guyana, and the Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps who joined us for this remarkable occasion.

“We recognise the effort and dedication of our team, whose work and commitment are instrumental in building the future of our beloved Guyana.” — Dr Richard Van West-Charles



# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## **CARICOM END OF YEAR CELEBRATION: A MEMORABLE GATHERING OF UNITY AND JOY**

On Friday, 6th December 2024, the vibrant End of the Year Celebration of CARICOM was held at La Gaviota Gourmet, La Rinconada, Caracas. This unforgettable event brought together representatives from CARICOM member states in Caracas for an afternoon filled with camaraderie, fun, and celebration.

The programme featured lively karaoke and dance competitions, complete with exciting prizes! The stars of the event were the dedicated staff members of the CARICOM Embassies and their families, whose hard work and unity were celebrated in grand style.

His Excellency Dr Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, along with his enthusiastic staff, actively participated in this joyous occasion, showcasing the true spirit of community and togetherness that CARICOM represents.

It was an afternoon of energy and excitement, where teamwork, dedication, and friendship flourished in an incredible way. Events like these highlight the unity and shared values that bind the CARICOM family together.

“Celebrating as a united CARICOM family inspires us to continue fostering collaboration and goodwill among our nations.” — Dr Richard Van West-Charles

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## **A Memorable End to 2024 at the Embassy of Guyana in Caracas**

On December 31st, 2024, the great family of the Guyanese Embassy gathered for an afternoon of joy and camaraderie. The event was filled with delicious food, lively conversations, and fun games of Dominoes and Cards, creating an atmosphere of unity and shared moments of happiness. A special moment of the day was the heartfelt message from H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, our Ambassador, who reflected on the challenges and triumphs of his first year of leadership. He highlighted the significant progress made in 2024 and expressed deep gratitude to every member of our team for their dedication and hard work.

Ambassador Van West-Charles inspired us all, urging us to embrace the challenges of 2025 with unwavering determination, as we set even more ambitious goals and continue to achieve greatness together.

Here's to a year of new beginnings, progress, and unparalleled success. Let's make 2025 even brighter!

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from Venezuela



## Consular Visit to the "Juan Griego" Community in Nueva Esparta State, Venezuela

Under the guidance of H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in Caracas, our team traveled to the community of Juan Griego to conduct a Consular Visit.

During this visit, we had the privilege of meeting with representatives of the Guyanese diaspora residing on the island, where we delivered Passports and Birth Certificates to our compatriots.

Following the directives of H.E. Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, our mission remains steadfast: to serve, assist, collaborate, and, above all, stand by our diaspora, wherever they may be.

Our Embassy works tirelessly, day and night, to ensure the well-being and support of our fellow citizens.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Strengthening Guyana-Colombia Trade & Investment Relations

On February 5, 2025, H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles attended a meeting at the PROCOLOMBIA Office in Caracas, Venezuela, where he was welcomed by Director Carlos Luna, Colombian Ambassador Milton Rengifo, and other PROCOLOMBIA representatives. A virtual discussion was also held with officials from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the Caribbean. The meeting focused on PROCOLOMBIA's interest in organizing a Trade Mission to Guyana for the upcoming Guyana Energy Conference. Ambassador Van West-Charles also presented investment opportunities in Guyana, reinforcing bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

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from Venezuela



## Venezuelan Student Defends Thesis on Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy at Santa Maria University in Caracas

The Embassy of Guyana in Caracas welcomed Verónica Sánchez, an International Studies student from Santa María University, who presented her thesis on Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). H.E. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles commended her for her outstanding work and highlighted the importance of young scholars in strengthening bilateral relations. The Embassy celebrates the role of research and innovation in fostering sustainability and deeper connections between nations.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Guyana Stands Firm: ICJ Advances Border Dispute Case with Venezuela

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has taken a crucial step in resolving the long-standing border dispute between Guyana and Venezuela. Both nations agreed to submit a second round of written pleadings, with Guyana advocating for a shorter timeline while Venezuela requested more time. Guyana highlighted the excessive delays in Venezuela's approach, emphasizing that the case has been pending for six years and that further submissions should focus on refining arguments rather than rehashing established facts. The ICJ will now set the official timeline for the next phase of proceedings.

At the United Nations, Guyana reaffirmed its commitment to a peaceful resolution through legal means, stressing that Venezuela's recent actions, including the Organic Law for the Defence of Guayana Esequiba, directly violate international agreements. Guyana's UN representative, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, urged the Security Council to uphold the rule of law and prevent Venezuela from unilaterally altering the status quo. Meanwhile, international support for Guyana's position remains strong, with the United Kingdom reaffirming that the 1899 border agreement must be respected.

Despite Venezuela's claims of sovereignty over Essequibo, its actions have been widely criticized as undermining diplomatic agreements and ICJ rulings. Guyana views the escalating rhetoric from Caracas as a direct threat to regional stability and has called on the UN to ensure compliance with international law. As the dispute continues, Guyana stands firm in its position, relying on legal frameworks and global diplomatic support to protect its territorial integrity.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



Co-operative Republic of Guyana  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
254 South Road & Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, Georgetown, Guyana

## PRESS RELEASE

### GUYANA SUBMITS REPLY TO VENEZUELA'S COUNTER-MEMORIAL IN CASE BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

December 9 – Guyana today submitted to the International Court of Justice in The Hague its final written brief on the merits in its case against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The brief, officially entitled Guyana's Reply to Venezuela's Counter-Memorial, was personally delivered to the Registrar of the Court by His Excellency Sasenarine Singh, Guyana's Ambassador in Brussels.

Guyana began the case in March 2018 following the determination by United Nations Secretary General António Guterres that he had chosen the International Court of Justice as the means to be used for the solution of the controversy between the two countries. Guyana is seeking the Court's confirmation that the 1899 Arbitral Award which determined the international boundary with Venezuela is legally valid and remains binding on both States as a matter of international law. Although Venezuela recognized the validity of the Award and accepted the boundary for more than 60 years, it changed position on the eve of Guyana's independence, rejected the Award and asserted a claim to more than two-thirds of Guyana's territory in the Essequibo Region.

Venezuela had previously sought to have the case dismissed by the Court, filing two separate objections to its jurisdiction, in 2019 and 2022, respectively. The Court rejected Venezuela's objections, both times by overwhelming majority. In December 2023, in response to Guyana's request brought on by Venezuela's threat to seize and annex Guyana's territory, the Court ordered the parties to refrain from any actions to disturb Guyana's administration and control of that territory pending the conclusion of the case.

In the merits phase of the case, each party submits two written briefs. Guyana's Memorial was submitted on 8 April 2023. Venezuela submitted its Counter-Memorial one year later on 8 April 2024. Guyana's Reply, filed today, responds to that Venezuelan brief. Venezuela will have the opportunity to respond to Guyana's Reply with its Rejoinder, due on 8 August 2025. The Court will in due course set a date for oral hearings. Guyana welcomes Venezuela's engagement in the merits phase of the case.

The Government of Guyana is fully confident that it has shown, in its Reply, that Venezuela's challenges to the Arbitral Award and the international boundary, as set forth in its Counter-Memorial, are entirely without merit, and that the Court will ultimately confirm the validity, finality and legally binding nature of both the Award and the boundary.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
December 9, 2024

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



Co-operative Republic of Guyana  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
254 South Road & Shiv-Chanderpaul Drive, Georgetown, Guyana

## PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana wishes to express Guyana's grave concern regarding recent actions and statements by the Government of Venezuela, which constitute clear violations of the Argyle Agreement of December 14, 2023, and the binding Order of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued on December 1, 2023.

### Violation of the Argyle Agreement

The Argyle Agreement, signed in the presence of regional and international interlocutors, unequivocally commits Guyana and Venezuela to refrain from escalating any conflict or disagreement arising from the territorial controversy between the two States. This includes refraining from actions that could aggravate tensions or alter the current situation in the disputed territory, pending resolution in accordance with international law.

However, the announcement by President Nicolás Maduro on January 7, 2025, regarding the election of a "Governor of the Guayana Esequiba" by "the people of Guayana Esequiba" constitutes a direct violation of these commitments. This unilateral action disregards the spirit of the Argyle Agreement, undermines the agreed framework for dialogue and peaceful coexistence, and significantly escalates tensions between our nations.

The people of Guyana's Essequibo region are Guyanese nationals who live in Guyana's sovereign territory. It would be a flagrant violation of the most fundamental principles of international law, enshrined in the UN Charter, for Venezuela to attempt to conduct an election in Guyanese territory involving the participation of Guyanese nationals.

### Violation of the ICJ Order

The ICJ, in its Order dated December 1, 2023, directed that Venezuela shall refrain from any actions that would modify the situation prevailing in the disputed territory, which is currently administered by Guyana. The Order also emphasized that both States must avoid actions that might aggravate or extend the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve.

President Maduro's statement, coupled with any actions to integrate the Essequibo region into Venezuela's administrative framework, including by calling for an election "by the people of Guayana Esequiba" of a governor of "Guayana Esequiba," represents a blatant disregard for this binding Order. Such actions not only jeopardize the judicial process but also undermine the authority of the ICJ as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

Guyana reserves the right to ask the Court for additional provisional measures in the event that Venezuela takes any steps toward conducting its so-called "election" in Guyanese territory or involving Guyanese nationals.

### Guyana's Position and Expectations

Guyana categorically rejects Venezuela's claims to the Essequibo region and reiterates its full commitment to the ICJ process, as mandated by the United Nations Secretary-General under the Geneva



# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



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

254 South Road & Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, Georgetown, Guyana

Agreement of 1966. Guyana urges Venezuela to immediately cease all actions that contravene the Argyle Agreement and the ICJ Order and to recommit to the principles of international law and peaceful dispute resolution to which it agreed at Argyle.

Guyana remains prepared to engage in constructive dialogue under the agreed frameworks, but it cannot condone or accept unilateral actions that threaten its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana requests assurances from the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that it will respect its international obligations and refrain from further actions that undermine the peaceful resolution of this longstanding controversy. In conformity with international law.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**  
**January 8, 2025**

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will start a direct flight to Georgetown**

We're pleased that starting June 4, 2025, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines – one of the world's oldest and most respected airlines – will begin direct flights to Guyana.

KLM will operate two weekly flights between Amsterdam and Georgetown, with a convenient stopover in Saint Maarten. The return flights will take you directly from Georgetown to Amsterdam!

Following Avianca Airlines' recent announcement to start flights in December 2024, the addition of KLM strengthens Guyana's appeal as a premier hub for tourism, business, and investment. With 27,872 annual seats added to the Georgetown market and a projected 1,000,000 passengers crossing our ports of entry by November, the future of Guyana's aviation sector is soaring.

Over the last four years, major airlines like JetBlue, British Airways, SkyHigh, InterCaribbean, United Airlines, Avianca, and now KLM have made Guyana part of their routes. KLM's arrival highlights our country's strategic importance as a gateway to South America, boosting tourism, trade, and cultural exchange with Europe.

With KLM's exceptional service, our nation's connectivity to the world grows stronger than ever!

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Man on Mission team to Karasabai, Region Nine

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali led a Man on Mission team to Karasabai, Region Nine, to help reconstruct homes damaged in a freak storm a week ago.

A total of 13 homes received assistance during the rebuilding exercise. Six homes were flattened while seven suffered infrastructural damages.

Throughout the day, President Ali joined by Prime Minister, Brigadier (Ret'd), the Honourable Mark Phillips assisted in the reconstruction of housing foundations, laying of blocks and rebuilding of roofs that were damaged.

Ranks of the Guyana Defence Force including officers that were a part of the Hurricane Beryl Relief Team, the Civil Defence Commission and the private sector also supported the rebuilding exercise.

The affected villagers expressed their gratitude to the Government and the support units.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## 2nd CARICOM-India Summit

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali said that the 2nd CARICOM-India Summit will transform decisions into meaningful actions.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at the Marriott Hotel, the President welcomed India's Prime Minister, the Honourable Shri Narendra Modi, and expressed gratitude to the Government of India for its selfless support during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the timely delivery of vaccines to the Caribbean.

Current Chair of CARICOM and Prime Minister of Grenada, the Honourable Dickon Mitchell; other CARICOM leaders; Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr Carla Barnett; Cabinet Ministers from Guyana and members of the diplomatic community were also at the event.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## **His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali received the prestigious Wilson Award from the Wilson Centre**

His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali received the prestigious Wilson Award from the Wilson Centre for his unwavering dedication to climate change action and biodiversity during a Gala and Dinner in Miami.

While delivering feature remarks, the Head of State emphasised the importance of leaders uniting to craft common policies to address global climate challenges, underscoring the need for shared vision and collaboration.

The President also spoke about Guyana's visionary Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) as a global model, balancing economic growth with environmental preservation.

The President also reaffirmed his commitment to sustainable development and emphasised the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring a resilient future for all.

The award, part of the Wilson Center's Latin America Programme, recognises leaders who have made significant contributions to regional and global advancement, particularly in fields such as sustainability, biodiversity, and climate change.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



**Join the Guyana Energy Conference & Supply Chain Expo 2025!**

**On behalf of the Embassy of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, we are excited to invite you to this prestigious event taking place in Georgetown, Guyana, from February 18 to 21, 2025.**

## **Guyana: A Leader in the Global Energy Landscape**

**As the fastest-growing economy in the region, Guyana has become a key player in the Oil & Gas sector, offering unique opportunities for innovation and investment.**

**This annual event brings together industry leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders to discuss advancements, challenges, and opportunities shaping the future of energy and supply chains.**

## **Why Attend?**

- **Global Connections:** Network with over 4,000 international attendees, including executives and key decision-makers.
- **Cutting-Edge Innovations:** Explore solutions from more than 190 exhibitors.
- **Unique Insights:** Gain knowledge from over 70 prominent speakers across the energy sector.
- **High-Level Networking:** Participate in interactive sessions and exclusive workshops.
- **Link to attend:** <https://guyanaenergy.gy/attend/register>

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Clean Water for All: Government Pledges 100% Potable Water Access in Region Nine by 2025

The government is taking bold steps to ensure 100% access to potable water in Region Nine's hinterland communities by 2025.

Minister of Housing and Water, Collin Croal, announced plans to drill new wells in 25 additional villages next year, bringing clean water to even more families.

Recent achievements include:

- Over 100 wells drilled to date
- New water systems commissioned in Rupertee and Massara
- Upgraded systems in 15+ villages this year alone

Minister Croal reaffirmed the government's commitment: "We are dedicated to ensuring every community has access to safe and reliable water sources."

Together, we're building a healthier and more sustainable future.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Game-Changer for Guyana: US EXIM Bank Approves \$526M for Gas-to-Energy Project

A significant milestone for Guyana! The US Export-Import Bank has approved a US\$526 million loan for the transformational gas-to-energy project following an extensive technical and environmental feasibility study.

### Key Benefits:

- ✓ 50% reduction in electricity costs 💰
- ✓ \$100M annual savings on fuel costs
- ✓ Reduction of 460,000 tons of carbon emissions per year 🌿

President Dr. Irfaan Ali and Vice President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo emphasized the project's transformative impact on Guyana's energy landscape, including:

- ✓ Adding 300MW of power to the national grid
- ✓ Supporting a transition to renewables
- ✓ Reducing the nation's carbon footprint

This initiative ensures a sustainable energy future while delivering significant savings for citizens and businesses alike.



# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## Powering the Future: Guyana Achieves Energy Stability with 67MW Reserve

Thanks to the addition of two power ships, solar power projects, and other installed capacities, Guyana Power and Light (GPL) now boasts 267 MW of power, far exceeding the country's peak demand of 200 MW.

### Key Highlights:

- 💡 67 MW of reserve power now ensures that power outages caused by shortages are a thing of the past.
- 🔧 Essential maintenance on older power sets can now be performed without disrupting power availability for consumers.
- ⚠️ While unexpected outages due to system faults may still occur, the era of frequent blackouts caused by shortages is over. This marks a huge milestone in Guyana's energy sector and reflects the government's dedication to providing a consistent and reliable energy supply for all.

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## MINISTRY OF FINANCE PRESS STATEMENT

### Elaboration of Proposed Adjustments to Personal Income Tax Threshold and Rates in 2025

Since presenting Budget 2025 on Friday afternoon, I have been in receipt of several requests to explain in further detail the adjustments that our Government is proposing to the provisions regarding the rates of personal income tax.

It is worthwhile to recall that the APNU/AFC had introduced in 2017 two rates of income tax, 28 percent and 40 percent. At the time, they also set the threshold at \$60,000 monthly (or 1/3 of the salary whichever is greater). As a result, at that time:

- The first \$60,000 of the monthly salary (or 1/3 of the salary if that is greater) would be taxed at zero percent;
- The next \$120,000 of the monthly salary (twice the amount of the threshold) would be taxed at 28 percent; and
- The remainder of the monthly salary above that would be taxed at 40 percent.

Our Government's intention is now to make the following adjustments in 2025 to the threshold and rates of personal income tax payable:

- **Increase the threshold to \$130,000 monthly; and**
- **Lower the tax rates of 28 percent and 40 percent, to 25 percent and 35, respectively.**

As a result of these proposed changes:

- The first **\$130,000** of the monthly salary (or 1/3 of the salary if that is greater) will now be taxed at **zero percent**;
- The next **\$260,000** of the monthly salary (twice the amount of the threshold) would now be taxed at **25 percent**; and
- The remainder above that would now be taxed at **35 percent**.

Additionally, of course, the **allowance of \$10,000 per child monthly**, and the **allowances of up to \$50,000 monthly for overtime and up to \$50,000 monthly for income earned from a second job**, will also be taxed at **zero percent**.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2025 that were tabled already incorporate the above adjustments, even though this full elaboration was not provided in the Budget Speech.

These changes will be reflected in proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act to give legal effect from Year of Income 2025.

**Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P.**  
**Senior Minister in the Office of the President**  
**with Responsibility for Finance and the Public Service**

January 19, 2025

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



**BUDGET 2025: MEASURES**

**SUPPORT FOR NEWBORN BABIES**

Government will provide a one-off grant of \$100,000 for every newborn baby born in Guyana to a Guyanese mother

#Budget2025GY  January 17, 2025



**BUDGET 2025: MEASURES**

**INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSION (OAP)**

Increase in OAP from \$36,000 to **\$41,000** per month, in line with Government's manifesto promise.

This represents a doubling of OAP since resuming office in 2020 and will benefit over 76,000 pensioners placing an additional \$4.5 billion of disposable income in their hands.

#Budget2025GY  January 17, 2025




**BUDGET 2025: MEASURES**

**INCREASE IN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

Increase in public assistance from \$19,000 to \$22,000.

This will place an additional \$1.4 billion in the hands of 40,000 persons. As a result, the total public assistance payout in 2025 will amount to over \$10 billion.


#Budget2025GY  January 17, 2025



**BUDGET 2025: MEASURES**

**OTHER COST OF LIVING MEASURES**

\$9 billion for targeted interventions in 2025, based on stakeholder consultations, to ease cost of living pressures.

#Budget2025GY  January 17, 2025

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela

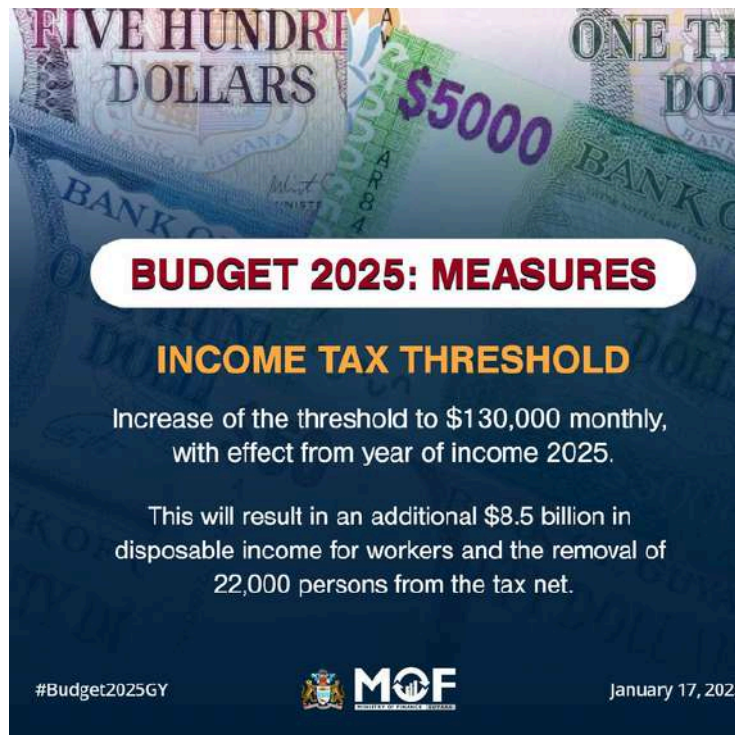


## BUDGET 2025: MEASURES

### ADJUSTMENTS TO TAXES PAID ON SECOND JOB

For those who have a second job in addition to their full-time primary job, the first \$50,000 of income earned monthly from their second job would be non-taxable.

#Budget2025GY  January 17, 2025




## BUDGET 2025: MEASURES

### INCOME TAX THRESHOLD

Increase of the threshold to \$130,000 monthly, with effect from year of income 2025.

This will result in an additional \$8.5 billion in disposable income for workers and the removal of 22,000 persons from the tax net.

#Budget2025GY  January 17, 2025



## BUDGET 2025

AMOUNTS TO

# \$1.382 TRILLION

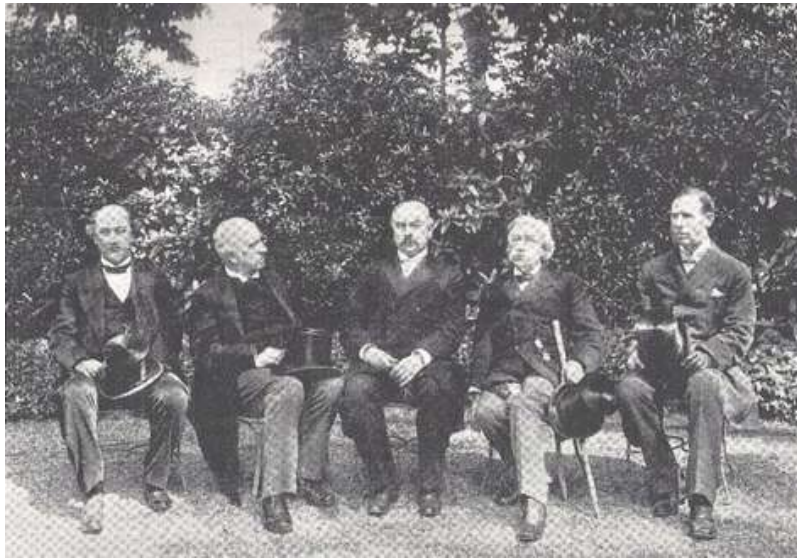
- ✓ 20.6 PERCENT LARGER THAN BUDGET 2024
- ✓ THE LARGEST BUDGET EVER
- ✓ FULLY FINANCED WITH NO NEW TAXES

#Budget2025GY January 17, 2025

# Guyanese Gazette



from Venezuela



## The Geneva Agreement

**The Geneva Agreement, signed on February 17, 1966, between the United Kingdom (on behalf of British Guiana) and Venezuela, aimed to establish a peaceful mechanism for resolving the long-standing territorial dispute over the Essequibo region. This agreement was negotiated as British Guiana approached independence and sought to address Venezuela's claims diplomatically.**

**The agreement created a Mixed Commission to find a mutually acceptable resolution within four years. If no agreement was reached, the dispute would be referred to international arbitration or other peaceful means under the United Nations Charter. Both parties committed to preserving their legal positions during negotiations to ensure fairness.**

**Although the Geneva Agreement provided a framework for resolution, the dispute remains unresolved. Venezuela continues to claim the Essequibo region, while Guyana upholds the 1899 arbitral ruling. The case is currently before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is expected to provide a final legal determination. Below is the full text of the Geneva Agreement.**



# Guyanese Gazette

from Venezuela



No. 8192

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**VENEZUELA  
and  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Agreement to resolve the controversy over the frontier  
between Venezuela and British Guiana. Signed at  
Geneva, on 17 February 1966**

*Official texts : Spanish and English.*

*Registered by Venezuela on 5 May 1966.*

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**VENEZUELA  
et  
ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE  
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD**

**Accord tendant à régler le différend relatif à la frontière  
entre le Venezuela et la Guyane britannique. Signé à  
Genève, le 17 février 1966**

*Textes officiels espagnol et anglais.*

*Enregistré par le Venezuela le 5 mai 1966.*

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from Venezuela



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No. 8192. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> TO RESOLVE THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND OVER THE FRONTIER BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND BRITISH GUIANA. SIGNED AT GENEVA, ON 17 FEBRUARY 1966

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Government of British Guiana, and the Government of Venezuela ;

Taking into account the forthcoming independence of British Guiana ;

Recognising that closer cooperation between British Guiana and Venezuela could bring benefit to both countries ;

Convinced that any outstanding controversy between the United Kingdom and British Guiana on the one hand and Venezuela on the other would prejudice the furtherance of such cooperation and should therefore be amicably resolved in a manner acceptable to both parties ;

In conformity with the agenda that was agreed for the governmental conversations concerning the controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom over the frontier with British Guiana, in accordance with the joint communiqué of 7 November, 1963, have reached the following agreement to resolve the present controversy :

## *Article I*

A Mixed Commission shall be established with the task of seeking satisfactory solutions for the practical settlement of the controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom which has arisen as the result of the Venezuelan contention that the Arbitral Award of 1899<sup>2</sup> about the frontier between British Guiana and Venezuela is null and void.

## *Article II*

(1) Within two months of the entry into force of this Agreement, two representatives shall be appointed to the Mixed Commission by the Government of British Guiana and two by the Government of Venezuela.

(2) The Government appointing a representative may at any time replace him, and shall do so immediately should one or both of its representatives be unable to act through illness or death or any other cause.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 17 February 1966, the date of signature, in accordance with article VII.

<sup>2</sup> *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 92, p. 160 (see also United Kingdom: *Treaty Series No. 5* (1897), C. 8439, for text of Treaty of 2 February 1897).

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(3) The Mixed Commission may by agreement between the representatives appoint experts to assist the Mixed Commission, either generally or in relation to any individual matter under consideration by the Mixed Commission.

### *Article III*

The Mixed Commission shall present interim reports at intervals of six months from the date of its first meeting.

### *Article IV*

(1) If, within a period of four years from the date of this Agreement, the Mixed Commission should not have arrived at a full agreement for the solution of the controversy it shall, in its final report, refer to the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela any outstanding questions. Those Governments shall without delay choose one of the means of peaceful settlement provided in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(2) If, within three months of receiving the final report, the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela should not have reached agreement regarding the choice of one of the means of settlement provided in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations, they shall refer the decision as to the means of settlement to an appropriate international organ upon which they both agree or, failing agreement on this point, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. If the means so chosen do not lead to a solution of the controversy, the said organ or, as the case may be, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall choose another of the means stipulated in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations, and so on until the controversy has been resolved or until all the means of peaceful settlement there contemplated have been exhausted.

### *Article V*

(1) In order to facilitate the greatest possible measure of cooperation and mutual understanding, nothing contained in this Agreement shall be interpreted as a renunciation or diminution by the United Kingdom, British Guiana or Venezuela of any basis of claim to territorial sovereignty in the territories of Venezuela or British Guiana, or of any previously asserted rights of or claims to such territorial sovereignty, or as prejudicing their position as regards their recognition or non-recognition of a right of, claim or basis of claim by any of them to such territorial sovereignty.

(2) No acts or activities taking place while this Agreement is in force shall constitute a basis for asserting, supporting or denying a claim to territorial sovereignty in the territories of Venezuela or British Guiana or create any rights of sovereignty in those territories, except in so far as such acts or acti-



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vities result from any agreement reached by the Mixed Commission and accepted in writing by the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela. No new claim, or enlargement of an existing claim, to territorial sovereignty in those territories shall be asserted while this Agreement is in force, nor shall any claim whatsoever be asserted otherwise than in the Mixed Commission while that Commission is in being.

## *Article VI*

The Mixed Commission shall hold its first meeting at a date and place to be agreed between the Governments of British Guiana and Venezuela. This meeting shall take place as soon as possible after its members have been appointed. Thereafter the Mixed Commission shall meet as and when agreed between the representatives.

## *Article VII*

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

## *Article VIII*

Upon the attainment of independence by British Guiana, the Government of Guyana shall thereafter be a party to this Agreement, in addition to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Venezuela.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Geneva this 17th day of February, 1966, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland :

Michael STEWART  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

L. F. S. BURNHAM  
Prime Minister of British Guiana

For the Government of Venezuela :

Ignacio IRIBARREN BORGES  
Minister for Foreign Affairs