



# BUDGET 2024

## AT A GLANCE

**STAYING THE COURSE: BUILDING PROSPERITY FOR ALL**

**JANUARY 15, 2024**





## H.E. DR. MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI

President  
Co-operative Republic of Guyana  
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

*New Year Address to the Nation on Monday January 01, 2024*

As we step into the New Year, we are filled with the promise of a fresh start. It is a time to right wrongs, make resolutions, and strengthen the bonds of friendship and family. The New Year is also a time to look back and learn from the year that has now faded into the recesses of history, but whose lingering effects still remain.

The past year, tested our collective determination as a nation. It brought trials, threats and triumphs, development, and instances of despair. We mourned the loss of our precious angels at Mahdia and the tragic deaths of our heroic servicemen in a helicopter crash. These tragedies were indeed jolting, but they did not floor us. We did not wilt or waver. We proved that we are resilient nation. The past year also witnessed a threat to our sovereignty and territorial integrity. I am heartened by the unity displayed by our people in defending our Motherland and unequivocally rejecting any unfounded claims to our territory.

The past year also saw successes and triumphs. Our economy remains on a rock-solid footing, registering in 2023 phenomenal economic growth that is estimated at almost 40 percent. This achievement is not just a number; it is a reflection of the concerted efforts and strategic decisions made to propel our economy forward.

The New Year – 2024, will see us advance more rapidly along this path as we shape the destiny of present and future generations. My government pledged to improve the lives of our people. We are honouring that promise. The fruits of our collective efforts are beginning to ripen. The future of Guyana is bright and promising. We have set Guyana on a course of sustained growth and prosperity.

I assure all Guyanese that the government will continue to work tirelessly for your upliftment in the coming year. Together, let us face the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, confident in the strength of our unity and the promise of a brighter future.





## HON. DR. ASHNI K. SINGH

Senior Minister  
in the Office of the President  
with Responsibility for Finance

*Budget Presentation to the National Assembly on Monday January 15, 2024*

First and foremost, we are building a Guyana where every single Guyanese family will be in a position to meet their most basic needs relative to a minimum threshold required to enjoy a decent life. Every single Guyanese family should have access to: decent housing including the potential to own their own home; sufficient nutritious food to experience zero hunger; good quality healthcare from conception to old age; relevant educational and skills training opportunities to equip those of employable age for the world of work; potable water and sanitation; and recreational facilities to support healthy living.

Secondly, we are building a Guyana where the conditions are in place for every single Guyanese family to be able to create, build, and accumulate household wealth through their own efforts. In this regard, we are creating an environment where opportunities for entrepreneurial activity abound across all sectors of economic endeavour, where the barriers to entry into those activities are lowered, and where appropriate support systems and services are available to enable those opportunities to be realised. In this regard, in this new Guyana, it will be imperative that our population becomes more entrepreneurial in outlook, equipped to both identify and create opportunities, prepared to take calculated risks, and able to manage those risks and keep exposure within tolerable levels while maximising returns.

Thirdly, in this new and modern Guyana that we are building, one cannot afford either at the national or the individual level to be insular, or parochial, or oblivious to the economic laws by which the rest of the world operates. We are part of a global economic system, and international business operates by and adheres to certain norms and practices, including the laws of competitiveness, the need for transparency, compliance with global standards and quality, amongst others. If we wish to be part of that system, we must adhere to those norms and practices too. This takes on even greater significance, if we wish to enter joint ventures and strategic partnerships with international counterparts to take advantage of local content opportunities or, indeed, to do business with anybody else in the world.

Our Government is committed to maintaining a policy framework aimed at achieving the objectives we have outlined and at delivering the commitments we made in our Manifesto, as well as to making the hard decisions where these are needed, all in the interest of ensuring that our country's potential for lasting prosperity is realised and that national prosperity, when realised, is translated into improved wellbeing for every single Guyanese household. With this in mind, Budget 2024 is presented under the theme **Staying the Course: Building Prosperity for All.**

STAYING THE COURSE: BUILDING PROSPERITY FOR ALL

# BUDGET 2024

AMOUNTS TO:

# \$1.146 TRILLION

- ✓ 46.6 PERCENT LARGER THAN BUDGET 2023
- ✓ THE LARGEST BUDGET EVER
- ✓ FULLY FINANCED WITH NO NEW TAXES



## 2024 KEY MEASURES

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### a. EASING THE COST OF LIVING

#### i. Containing the Cost of Fuel

As world market fuel prices remain volatile, Government will maintain the zero excise tax on fuel. At current prices, this measure results in Government foregoing an estimated **\$40 billion annually**.

#### ii. Reduction in Freight Charges

Extend the application of freight cost adjustment for the purposes of computing import taxes and in order to combat the increase in shipping costs for a 12-month period from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 at a cost of over **\$6 billion**.

#### iii. Expansion of Part-time Job Programme

**\$10 billion** for the continuation and expansion of the part-time job programme.

#### iv. Other Cost of Living Measures

**\$7 billion** allocated for measures to be determined after consultations with stakeholders, aimed at maintaining production while containing the impact of price increases.

#### v. Support to Small Businesses

Government will partner with the commercial banks to lower the interest rates on loans up to **\$5 million**, thereby **reducing the cost of financing for small businesses**.



## vi. Removal of Duty and VAT on Sports Equipment and Technology

In recognition of the importance of sports and technology to human and economic development, and in particular to our young people, Government will:

- Remove VAT and Duty on sports equipment
- Remove VAT and Duty on essential cell phone accessories, such as chargers, charging cables, and headphones, along with phone components for repairs



## b. SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE

### i. Increase In Old Age Pension (OAP)

Increase in OAP from \$33,000 to **\$36,000 per month**, placing an additional **\$2.7 billion of disposable income** in the hands of 76,000 pensioners. This reflects a 75 percent increase in OAP since the PPP/C resumed office in 2020.

### ii. Increase In Public Assistance

Increase in Public Assistance from \$16,000 monthly to **\$19,000 per month** - more than doubling the public assistance since the PPP/C resumed office. This will place **\$1.2 billion in additional disposable income** in the hands of over 35,000 persons.

### iii. Supporting Eye Care For School Children And Pensioners

In the area of promoting eye care for school children and pensioners, Government will provide the following:

- A **\$3,000 voucher** towards the cost of an eye test for over 205,000 school children and 76,000 pensioners at a cost of **over \$840 million**.



- For those who require spectacles, a **\$15,000 voucher** towards the cost of the spectacles for the above category. This measure is estimated to cost **\$955 million**.
- In the case of school children and pensioners living in the hinterland where testing facilities might not be readily accessible, an alternative arrangement will be put in place.

The total cost of this intervention aggregates to **\$1.8 billion**.

#### iv. Support For Cervical Cancer Testing

To encourage testing for cervical cancer, Government will provide a **voucher of \$8,000** for women between the ages of 21 to 65 to meet the cost of Cervical Cancer Testing. This intervention will cost an estimated **\$2.8 billion**.



### c. REMOVAL OF DUTY AND VAT ON FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Removal of VAT and Duty on fire extinguishers and smoke alarms to promote household fire prevention capabilities.

### d. NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME

#### i. Minimum Pension

Increase in the Current Minimum Pension paid by NIS from \$35,000 to **\$43,075 monthly**. This will result in **\$2.6 billion in additional disposable income** to the benefit of over 27,000 persons.

## ii. Survivor's Pension

Increase the Current Minimum Pension paid to survivors by NIS from \$17,500 to **\$21,537 monthly**, which will make an **additional \$600 million of disposable income** available to over 12,000 persons.

## iii. Invalidity Pension

Increase in the Current Minimum Invalidity Pension paid by NIS from \$35,000 to **\$43,075 monthly**, which will make an **additional \$24 million of disposable income** available to over 200 persons.

## iv. One-Off Grant

Government will offer eligible persons with contributions ranging from 700 to 749 the option to accept as full and final settlement a one-off grant depending on the year in which the last contribution was made. This intervention can **benefit over 3,800 persons at a cost of \$550 million.**

## e. INCREASE IN DISPOSABLE INCOME

### i. Because We Care Student Grant

Increase the Because We Care Student Grant from \$35,000 to **\$40,000**, to the benefit of over 205,000 school children in the public and private schools, placing an **additional \$1 billion** in the hands of the parents of school children.

When coupled with the uniform voucher allowance of \$5,000, school children will receive a total of **\$45,000** per child, with the two grants aggregating to a transfer of **\$9.2 billion** to these parents.

### ii. Support to University of Guyana Graduates

Commence the first phase of eliminating outstanding loans owed by graduates of the University of Guyana, on the condition that these graduates can demonstrate proof of being employed or self-employed in Guyana after their graduation, for a minimum period to be specified.





### iii. Reducing the Cost of Life and Medical Insurance

Allow taxpayers a deduction from their chargeable income for premiums paid for life and medical insurance up to a maximum of **10 percent** of their income or **\$50,000 monthly**, whichever is lower.

### iv. Income Tax Threshold

Increase the monthly income tax threshold from \$85,000 to **\$100,000**. As a result of this adjustment 13,000 persons will be removed from paying income taxes and will result in **\$4.8 billion** increase in disposable income of workers.

These measures will provide **\$70 billion** to businesses and individuals, as we continue to contain the impact of imported price increases, provide relief to the most vulnerable, and promote the expansion of productive activity and job creation.



# MACROECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS



## i. 2024 REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

- Overall real GDP projected to grow by **34.3 percent** in 2024.
- The non-oil economy is estimated to expand by **11.9 percent** in 2024.

## ii. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is projected to grow by **10.4 percent**.

- The sugar growing subsector is projected to accelerate its recovery with strong growth of **66.1 percent**.
- The rice growing subsector is expected to grow by **6.2 percent**.
- The other crops subsector is projected to achieve an expansion of **11.6 percent**.
- The livestock and fishing subsectors are expected to expand by **6.6 percent** and **15 percent**, respectively.
- The forestry sector is projected to record growth of **3.9 percent**.



### iii. Extractive Industries

The mining and quarrying sector is projected to expand by **43.6 percent**.

- Oil and gas and support services expected to expand by an estimated **44.7 percent**.
- Other mining and quarrying subsector is projected to grow by **19.3 percent**.
- The gold and bauxite mining subsectors are expected to grow this year by **15.7 percent** and **57.2 percent**, respectively.



iv. Sugar, rice and other manufacturing projected to expand by **66.1 percent**, **22.7 percent** and **10.4 percent**, respectively.

v. Construction sector projected to expand by **23.4 percent**.

vi. Services sector projected to grow by **6.9 percent**.





## a. HEALTH

The PPP/C Government is in pursuit of a resilient health sector – one that makes available a comprehensive and widely accessible suite of healthcare services to all citizens of this country.

As such, **\$129.8 billion** has been budgeted for the continued transformation of the health sector into one which meets world class standards.

- **\$10.3 billion** to continue construction of the world class paediatric and maternal hospital in Ogle.
- **\$6.2 billion** to construct new world class hospital at New Amsterdam.
- **\$15.5 billion** to continue construction and advancement on six regional hospitals at Bath, De Kendren, Diamond, Enmore, Lima and No. 75 Village.
- **\$10 billion** to upgrade Bartica, Suddie and West Demerara hospitals.
- **\$1.5 billion** to construct hospitals at Kamarang, Kato, and Moruca, and to upgrade the Lethem Regional Hospital.
- **\$5 billion** to continue retrofitting health centres, health posts, and other health facilities.
- **\$2.9 billion** for the continued expansion of the equipment inventory.
- **\$1.4 billion** for the construction of two health science training facilities at New Amsterdam and Suddie.
- A cohort of over 3,500 students is projected to be added to the medical services programmes, of which approximately 2,000 relate to persons enrolled in the nursing programmes.



- Increase the number of doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals from the Cuban Medical Brigade from 192 in 2023 to a projected 500 in 2024.
- **\$3.8 billion** to ramp up capabilities to detect and fight against cervical cancer.
- Continue an upward trajectory of screening for non-communicable diseases with an aim of reaching 70,000 persons.
- Roll out a mobile app at the Diabetes Comprehensive Centre at Lusignan to monitor patients' nutrition, exercise and other lifestyle data.
- Launch the plan for the elimination of viral Hepatitis C for which a curative treatment is available now for the first time in Guyana.
- Distribute 25,000 long lasting insecticidal nets to over 130,000 persons in Regions 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10.





## b. EDUCATION

The education sector is absolutely critical to the realisation of our national objectives, including that of ensuring that every single Guyanese person of working age has an adequate opportunity to acquire the skills needed to participate meaningfully and fulfillingly in the world of work.

**\$135.2 billion** has been budgeted to further realise the Government's vision of world class education.

- **\$28.7 billion** for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of school buildings and educational facilities.
- **\$3.1 billion** to continue the distribution of school grants to purchase school supplies.
- **\$4.9 billion** to continue the National School Feeding programme, to the benefit of 126,170 children.
- **\$3 billion** to purchase 502,072 more textbooks for the primary and secondary levels.
- **\$4.1 billion** to support the University of Guyana operations.
- **\$4 billion** for the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) to support 6,000 new students and 3,967 continuing students.
- **\$350 million** for the bulk licensing arrangement with COURSERA to train up to 450,000 persons in a wide range of areas where skills gaps exist.
- **\$735 million** for the training of 1,000 young persons in relevant aspects of information and communication technology (ICT) to take up outsourced high value ICT-based nearshore jobs over a two year period
- **\$2.3 billion** to support technical and vocational interventions.





## c. HOUSING, WATER AND SANITATION

### Housing

The housing sector is yet another one of those sectors undergoing dramatic and rapid transformation since we assumed office. Government reduced the housing deficit significantly by providing opportunities for homeownership through the robust Dream Realised housing drive.

In 2024, the sum of **\$78 billion** has been allocated to further develop housing infrastructure country wide.

- **Over 30,000 house lots** were allocated since the PPP/C Government assumed office, and they are in pursuit of their target to distribute 50,000 lots during their first term.
- Delivered 6,822 land titles and transports to residents since resuming office in 2020 and will distribute **5,000 more** in 2024.
- Continue works for the construction of **487 more homes for low-income earners**.
- Continue works for the construction of **222 more homes for moderate income earners**.
- Continue construction of **425 additional homes for young professionals**.
- Continue investments for infrastructure development in new and existing housing areas including Amelia's Ward, Balthyock, Burma, Charity, De-Endragt, De Kinderen, Golden Grove, Good Hope, Great Diamond, Hope, La Bonne Intention, Leonora, Le Ressenouvir, Lethem, No. 75 and 76 Villages, Palmyra, Peter's Hall, Shieldstown and Stewartville.
- Launch the single-window approval system for building permits.

## Water and Sanitation

### Water

Government has made significant investments in the water sector to improve water quality and supply systems across the country.

A total of **\$22.5 billion** has been budgeted for further advancements in 2024.

- Advance works on the drilling of wells at Bamia, Caledonia, Lima and Onderneeming and commence at Fellowship, Timehri and Vergenoegen.
- **\$1.5 billion** to further improve hinterland water supply systems at areas including Baracara, Kimbia, Santa Cruz, Santa Mission, St. Ignatius, Saxacalli, Orealla, Red Hill, Wakapao, Wax Creek and Wiruni.

At the end of 2023, hinterland water coverage stood at 82 percent compared to 46 percent at the end of 2020.

- Complete construction on seven new water treatment plants.
- **\$14 billion** to construct another five water treatment plants at Adventure, Bath, Leguan, Maria's Delight and Wakenaam, and facilitate for other interventions aimed at improving water quality. This will benefit over 400,000 residents.
- Installation of 30,000 additional water meters to reduce non-revenue water from 62 percent to 58 percent by the end of 2024.







## Sanitation

The PPP/C Government recognizes the challenges faced in the solid waste sector across the country and have since significantly invested in solid waste management and infrastructure to ensure timely collection and appropriate disposal of garbage, through enhanced operations, support and upgrades across communities.

In 2024, **\$2.6 billion** has been budgeted to further advance Government's efforts to upgrade solid waste infrastructure and other initiatives which include:

- **\$1.3 billion** for infrastructural, environmental, and capacity building support through the continued operation of landfill sites and the Community Clean-Up Programme.
- **\$572.6 million** for the continued upgrade of the Haags Bosch Sanitary Landfill Site, including the completion of a semi-aerobic cell to allow for increased capacity.
- Additionally, the upgrade of landfill sites will be undertaken at areas including Leguan, Mabaruma, Santa Rosa, Wakenaam and Yupakari.
- **\$92 million** for the procurement of waste management equipment which includes a tyre shredder, water and air quality testing equipment and stationary compactor bins.



## d. CULTURE, SPORTS, AND THE ARTS

### Culture and Arts

This Government believes that it must actively work to harness the collective energies of its People, imbued with national pride and with pride in its rich natural and cultural heritage.

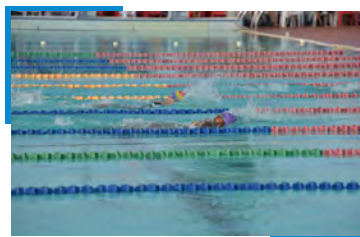
**\$2.7 billion** has been budgeted for the continuous development of culture and arts.

- Provision for a new art gallery and museum, outfitting of community spaces for cultural performances and to continue the ongoing initiatives.
- **\$100 million** to support activities associated with the observance of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

### Sports

**\$4.6 billion** has been allocated for the advancement of sports in Guyana.

- **\$1 billion** to continue upgrading grounds throughout the country.
- **\$957 million** to continue construction of multi-purpose sports halls in Regions 1, 3, 7, 8 and 9 as well as multi-purpose sports facilities in Regions 2 and 10.



## YOUTH

Government continues to place great emphasis on training and capacity building by providing greater opportunities to our young men and women.

Budget 2024 provides the sum of **\$1.1 billion** to advance youth development initiatives nationwide.

- In 2024, a total of 1,125 youths are targeted to be certified in CVET and CVQ Level One training programmes.
- This year, the training programme will be extended to Vryman's Erven and Kuru Kuru Training Centres with the curriculum expanding to include welding and fabrication.
- **\$150 million** budgeted to further equip and upgrade youth training centres countrywide.

## CHILDREN

Children are the bedrock of our civilisation, the inheritors of our legacy and national patrimony, and the leaders of tomorrow.

This year, **\$1.4 billion** is budgeted to pursue ongoing and new initiatives including:

- **\$287 million towards** through the construction of two day and night care centres in Regions 3 and 4, and the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Sophia Care Centre and the Mahaica Children's Home.
- Licensing of an additional 123 childcare facilities.
- Provision of childcare subsidies to benefit and additional 700 children.





## HUMAN SERVICES

This year, the sum of **\$48.3 billion** has been budgeted to pursue initiatives in social services.

### Senior Citizens

- **\$172 million** to commence construction of a new care home for senior citizens at Enmore.
- **Continue provision of subsidised water** charges to all pensioners, benefiting 33,732 senior citizens.
- Continue provision of home-based care to 6,167 elderly persons in Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10 and in 2024, 8,500 will benefit.

### Women and Gender

Government continues to deliver on its promises for the empowerment of women as outlined in our Manifesto. Budget 2024 makes provision for the continuation of the following initiatives;

- Train an additional 10,900 women under the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN), GOAL and BIT programmes.
- Provide support to an additional 700 women to register their businesses, and provide start-up business kits to new entrepreneurs.
- Continue training of senior government functionaries and community leaders in social inclusion and gender mainstreaming, targeting 3,000 persons.



## Persons with Disabilities

Government continues to pursue initiatives targeting better facilities, services, and jobs to improve the well-being of persons with disabilities (PWDs), including children.

- Intensify the work of the PWD Support Unit.
- Train an additional 396 PWDs in Job Access with Speech (JAWS) and computer skills at the newly constructed Mahaica Disability Complex.
- Provide another 600 PWDs assistive aids.
- Continue provision of special needs services to 797 children, and continue training of 2,299 teachers in Special Education Needs/Disabilities (SEND) at the CPCE.
- Continue the retrofitting and rehabilitation of classroom spaces to ensure they are conscious of the special needs of PWDs.



## Victims of Domestic Violence

Government continues to stand resolute against domestic violence.

- Continue training and sensitisation on sexual offences and domestic violence to over 10,500 persons in Regions 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9.
- Continue the provision of legal aid, and shelter and counselling services to victims of domestic violence.



## AMERINDIAN AND HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT

The PPP/C Government remains unwavering in its commitment to its Amerindian brothers and sisters through targeted developmental programmes, aimed at strengthening land tenure, promoting the development of a sustainable village economy in each village, maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, and enhanced the social welfare of the first peoples.

**\$9 billion** has been allocated for the development of Amerindian programmes.

- **\$100 million** to support the NTC in convening its annual conference.
- **\$800 million** to continue the land titling programme.
- **\$3.4 billion** to continue distribution of Presidential Grants
- **\$1.2 billion** to continue direct employment and skills training opportunities through the Community Service Officers (CSOs) Programme. This is expected to benefit over 2,600 persons.
- **\$147 million** to continue to support Amerindian Heritage celebrations.
- **\$105 million** for support to 804 students under the Hinterland Scholarship Programme.





## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Guyana’s vast agricultural potential is poised to be realised, and our country is well on its way to becoming the true agricultural heartland of the Caribbean. In this regard, Government remains resolute in its commitment to the development, transformation, diversification and expansion of the agricultural sector.

**\$97.6 billion** is budgeted to advance and catalyse agriculture development.

### Sugar

**\$6 billion** budgeted for GuySuCo to improve production and operational efficiency of the sugar industry.

### Rice

**\$1.3 billion** to be expended by the Guyana Rice Development Board to support increased production and productivity of the rice industry.

### Other Crops

Government’s commitment to diversify non-traditional agriculture has seen emerging transformation of the sub-sector, with the expanded cultivation of corn, soya bean, citrus, spices, and coconuts and high-value crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, bell peppers, romaine lettuce and carrots among others.

In 2024, a sum of **\$2.6 billion** is budgeted to support other crop interventions.



## Corn and Soya Bean

Government's collaboration with the private sector to roll out a development programme for corn and soya bean in the intermediate savannahs has been very successful.

- **\$967.8 million** budgeted to improve the capacity of the Tacama facility, which includes the installation of a conveyor system.
- Three additional major investors will enter the market, and together expand cultivation to 26,000 acres.



## Coconuts

- **\$78 million** budgeted to support the coconut sub-sector.

## Citrus and Spices

- **\$100 million** budgeted to support the production of citrus and spices.

## Agro processing

Government's objective is to support the development of the agro-processing industry, including value-chain development and market expansion for Guyana's produce and products, while creating opportunities for sustainable livelihood for small entrepreneurs and communities.

- **\$527.4 million** budgeted to support agro-processors and provide opportunities for farmers to add value to their products.



## Livestock

Government aims to improve its services to the poultry industry through decentralised support facilities and production zones, establishment of a modular duck processing facility, development of 60 five-acre plots for pastures to enhance sheep production, and the upgrading of quarantine stations to prevent the entry of exotic animal diseases into the country.

To this end, a sum of **\$1.5 billion** has been budgeted.

## Fisheries and aquaculture

- **\$1.2 billion** budgeted for fisheries and aquaculture development initiatives.

## Drainage and Irrigation

A total of **\$72.3 billion** budgeted to provide upgrade and maintenance of the national D&I network in 2024.

- Begin works on two Hope-like structures in Regions 5 and 6.
- Purchase 40 mobile pumps to augment other interventions being implemented to improve D&I systems countrywide.
- Continue works on pump stations at A-Line sluice, Belle Vue, Canal No. 1, Charity, Cottage, Cozier, Jimbo Grove, Letter Kenny, and Meten-Meer-Zorg.
- Invest in pump stations at Chesney, Farm, Grove South, and Little Diamond.



## IMPROVED GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

### Governance

Government's hallmark has been to consistently embrace democracy, constitutionality and the rule of law, transparency and accountability, inclusion and participation.

- Will launch an introductory certificate programme on International Human Rights Law which will be conducted using a hybrid model.

### Justice Sector Strengthening

The PPP/C Government continues to prioritise timely provision of justice for all Guyanese.

In 2024, a total of **\$6.8 billion** has been allocated for the strengthening of the justice sector.

- **\$1.7 billion** to complete work on new Magistrates Court and living quarters at Vigilance and substantially advanced work on Magistrates Courts and living quarters at Anna Regina, Cove & John, Friendship, Mabaruma, Mahaicony, Mahdia, Port Kaituma and Timehri as well as the extension of the Court of Appeal Building in Kingston.
- Continue the process of filling critical vacancies in the Judiciary including Justices of Appeal, Magistrates and Puisne Judges.
- 9 special prosecutors to join the existing cohort.
- Provide for further rollout of SMART courts across the country.



## Strengthening Local Government

Cognisant that effective local governance forms a main pillar of a strong democracy, this Government will continue to provide support to all municipalities and Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs), including institutional assistance to foster accountability and transparency and advance infrastructure development and enhancement across communities.

- **\$1 billion** budgeted to be transferred to LDOs as subventions.
- **\$1.2 billion** to complete five community markets at Charity, Hydronie, Leonora, Mon Repos and Parika, and to rehabilitate Corriverton, Kumaka and Suddie markets.
- Over **\$50 million** for the rehabilitation of LDO buildings in various communities.
- **\$1.5 billion** to provide support for routine maintenance of community infrastructure.
- **\$10 billion** towards the National Pathway Workers Project.



## PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

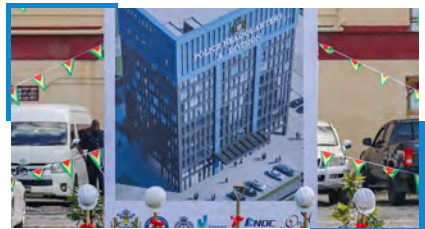
In recognising that a vibrant security sector is as a result of well-planned and strategic initiatives, this Government has committed to invest heavily in: the provision of expanded facilities, expanded mobility and updated equipment, better use of technology, training, and the promotion of greater accountability for law enforcement personnel.

A sum of **\$90.6 billion** has been budgeted in pursuit of Government's overall objective of the Security Sector.

### Guyana Police Force (GPF):

A sum of **\$30.3 billion** has been allocated in Budget 2024 to the GPF.

- **\$5.4 billion** to advance infrastructure works in 2024.
- **\$1 billion** to further expand the Force's land and water fleet with the purchase of additional vehicles, boats, and engines.
- **\$152.1 million** towards the further expansion and visibility of community policing groups countrywide.
- **\$2 billion** to further advance and expand the use of integrated information and communication technology (ICT) system designed to enhance surveillance and deter potential criminal activities.
- **\$250 million** to further improve the investigative and forensic capabilities of ranks.



## Guyana Prison Service

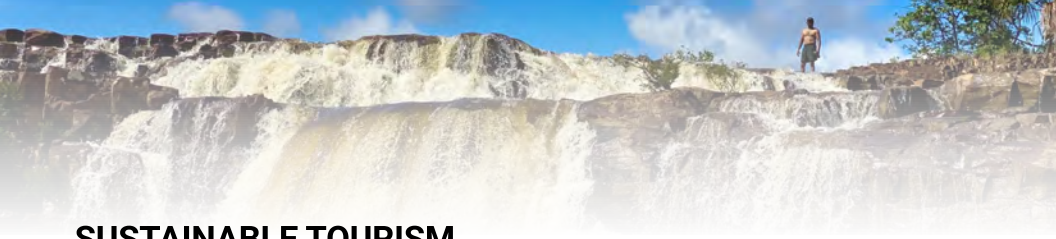
A sum of **\$6.5 billion** has been budgeted for continued support in modernizing this sector.

- **\$2.8 billion** to advance prison infrastructural works.
- **\$140.2 million** to train and rehabilitate 1,600 inmates in various areas along with 450 officers who will undergo training in prison management.

## Guyana Fire Service (GFS)

- **\$572.8 million** to upgrade the physical facilities of the GFS.
- **\$500 million** to further boost the equipment fleet.
- **\$60.7 million** to maintain the operability of fire hydrants.
- **\$30 million** to continue training of fire officers.





## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Tourism has always been a sector in which Guyana enjoys a comparative advantage, with a world class product whose potential was not previously realised solely because of certain very specific constraints.

Government has maintained efforts to improve connectivity between Guyana and the rest of the world with new services and routes. Notably:

- United Airlines (UA) has announced the introduction of a service from Houston to Georgetown four times weekly to commence from April 2024.
- In June 2024, American Airlines (AA) will expand its services with an additional daily flight between Miami and Georgetown.

The new services by UA and AA will alone add **137,268 new seats** to the market in 2024.

Alongside airlift, room capacity is also poised for a significant increase;

- An Aiden Best Western in Georgetown, expected to open its doors by May and add 150 rooms.
- A Marriott Courtyard at Timehri, expected to open by August adding 150 rooms.
- A Four Points Sheraton at Providence poised for completion by December adding 172 new rooms.
- An AC Marriott at Ogle expected to open its doors by December adding 152 new rooms.
- A Hyatt Place at Providence on East Bank Demerara, expected to open by December and adding 136 new rooms.
- Construction will continue on several other hotel properties, not only in Georgetown but also in West Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice.





## DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN GOVERNMENT

Government will pursue complete integration for government to government and government to citizen services, allowing for greater ease of access to services, real time feedback and reduced cost and travel time, reduced processing times, improved inventory management and improved case management.

- Undertaking a structured digitalisation masterplan that will allow 70 processes to be digitised in a phased manner; first phase will see the procurement of the required hardware and software systems.
- **\$783.4 million** to continue National eID project.
- **\$2 billion** budgeted for Safe Country initiative.
- Automatic ticketing for speeding and non-use of seatbelts will be implemented later this year

## BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING

Recognising the sector’s job creation potential, Government will continue to support the development and expansion of the sector in Guyana.

- To this end, since resuming office in 2020, almost **2,000 BPO jobs** have been created.
- In 2024, Government will construct **two new call centres** in Region 5, with the capacity to create an **additional 800 jobs**.



## SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

This Government continues to recognize the integral role of small businesses in improving livelihoods and employment in the economy and has worked tirelessly towards addressing structural challenges that stymie business development while cultivating a sense of entrepreneurship, strengthening business cooperation, and solidifying the value chain for maximum contribution of small businesses to the mainstream economy.

- **\$3.3 billion** to continue constructing, rehabilitating, and upgrading industrial estates across the country.
- **\$450 million** allocated for the replenishment of the Small Business Development Fund.
- **\$331 million** allocated to the Small Business Bureau for initiatives that will contribute to small and micro business development and the promotion of entrepreneurship.
- **\$600 million** for the Electronic Single Window for Trade Transactions – expected to go live in 2024.
- **\$500 million** for the commencement of the Food and Drugs laboratory.







## TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

### Roads and Bridges

A total of **\$204.1 billion** has been allocated to upgrade and expand the roads and bridges network.

- **\$10.5 billion** to continue works on the East Coast Demerara to West Berbice corridor, and on the Mahaica River bridge .
- **\$19.7 billion** allocated to advance the construction of the New Demerara River Bridge .
- **\$9 billion** to advance works on the new four-lane highway from Meer-Zorgen to Schoonord and from Schoonord to Crane.
- **\$1.5 billion** to advance works on the Parika to Goshen route and the Sand Hills to Makouria link.
- **\$4.1 billion** to advance works on the Diamond to Grove bypass road to facilitate the upgrading of the East Bank Highway from Good Success to Timehri.
- **\$15.5 billion** to continue construction of the East Coast to East Bank Road linkage from Ogle to Eccles.
- **\$8 billion** to continue construction of the the Diamond to Busby Dam that will ultimately connect to the Busby Dam to Timehri four-lane highway.
- **\$10 billion** to commence the rehabilitation of the Linden-Soesdyke Highway.
- **\$4.2 billion** to commence construction of the new Wismar Bridge.
- Advance works on the Linden to Mabura Hill Road and complete construction of the 45 concrete bridges along the route from Mabura to Lethem.



- **\$73.2 billion** to continue upgrading community roads and streets.
- **\$5.5 billion** to develop roads throughout the hinterland, including areas such as Kwebanna, Lethem, Mabaruma, Matthew's Ridge and South Pakaraimas.



## Air Transport

- **\$2.3 billion** for the completion of the Ekereku Bottom, Eteringbang, Karisparu, and Pariuma airstrips, as well as for the rehabilitation and maintenance of several others including the Imbaimadai, Kaieteur, Kaikan and Matthew's Ridge airstrips.

## River Transport

A sum of \$8.1 billion has been allocated to improve river transportation service.

- **\$405 million** for rehabilitation works for the MV Malali, MV Makouria and MV Barima.
- **\$2.7 billion** to complete works on the Bartica, Goods Wharf, Kumaka, Morawhanna and Port Kaituma stelling, and to undertake rehabilitation works on stelling including those at Parika, Supenaam and Wakenaam.
- **\$950 million** to further support navigational aid interventions.

## Sea and River Defence

A sum of **\$6.9 billion** has been budgeted towards enhancing the resilience of sea defence structures.





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