

# BLAZING THE TRAIL OF AMERINDIAN + HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT

A **dpi** SUPPLEMENT

1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF THE NEW PPP/C GOVERNMENT





On the campaign trail from March the second the PPP government made a lot of promises in development wise to the various Amerindian communities around the country and today we could say that the government is delivering on their promises.



Mr. Roy Prince  
Resident of Batavia



H.E. Dr. Irfaan Ali greeting Amerindian Toshaoos at a recent function.

The People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) has a long track record – 23 years – of providing support and working with Indigenous Guyanese to ensure they have access to education, health care, and that they benefit from a diversified village economy with opportunities for job creation, and a brighter future for themselves and Guyana.

Just one month after assuming office, His Excellency, President, Dr. Irfaan Ali, renewed the PPP/C government's unwavering commitment to Amerindians. During an address to mark the launch of Amerindian Heritage Month, on September 1, 2020, the President assured Indigenous Guyanese that his government's return to office marked the return to comprehensive Amerindian development which was highly prioritised by previous PPP/C administrations.

“I want to assure you that the priorities you engaged me with during the campaign; I had the distinguished task of moving in every single of your communities, talking to all of the leaders, talking to the people from the communities. I understand your needs. I feel your needs. I know the areas of weakness. You communicated this to me directly and today, I want to assure you that I am committed even stronger than I was during the campaign to ensure that this government, your government works on fulfilling the aspirations and needs of your communities in giving you a stronger life, better life, a secure future and one in which the young people in your community can be proud of and know that every single Amerindian community has a sustainable and viable future,” the President said.

The PPP/C government promised inclusive governance and to ensure that services and a higher quality of life are provided to every Guyanese. The PPP/C had pledged that Amerindians and Hinterland residents would not be left out. A specific commitment was made towards reversing “the backward steps imposed by the Coalition government” on Indigenous Guyanese development, and unlocking a new era of rapid transformation for hinterland communities.

# PPP/C'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO AMERINDIANS

During his address, the President committed, that as promised in the PPP/C's manifesto the government will:

- Ensure greater participation by villages in government projects and increased representation of Amerindians on Government Boards;
- Revise and strengthen the Amerindian Act in consultation with local leaders to reflect Amerindians' evolving needs;
- Expand food production, and increase food processing to bolster hinterland food security;
- Ensure skills training relevant to the oil and gas sector include Amerindians, and enact business facilitation to allow indigenous communities to tap into the opportunities created by the local content policy;
- Increase health facilities, and upgrade and better equip them to provide enhanced and more accessible health care across the hinterland;
- Improve the quality of education access by Amerindians, including through the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), the provision of more and better-trained teachers and the award of scholarships;
- Restart the hinterland water infrastructure and the electrification programme and expand them through the use of alternative energy such as Solar and Hydro power;
- Restore the Land Project and establish a special mechanism to resolve land disputes
- Reintroduce the Community Development Plans (CDPs);
- Rehire the 2,000 Community Service Officers (CSOs) who were dismissed by the Coalition government, and restore the School Grants that were taken away;
- Return to the ground-breaking partnership forged through the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and advance the innovative “OPT-IN” feature which allows villages to benefit directly from the proceeds of Carbon Trading Services.

“During our campaign, we listened to you, as we did in all communities across the length and breadth of our country. You told us what you want for infrastructure and we listened to you. You told us what you want for education and we listened to you. You told us what you want for economic livelihoods and we will deliver bigger and better than we did before,” the president pledged.

# PROMISES DELIVERED

## Governance

Early on, the government began delivering on its manifesto promise, particularly the pledge to include qualified and talented Amerindians in governance at every level of government.

- **First Indigenous Deputy Speaker**



Deputy Speaker, Lenox Shuman (centre) with Government Ministers and Members of Parliament at the opening of the 12th Parliament at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

The launch of Amerindian Heritage Month 2020 coincided with the opening of the twelfth Parliament. Not only were five talented Amerindians sworn in as Members of Parliament (MPs) for the PPP/C, but the government also supported the appointment, for the first time, of a Deputy Speaker of Amerindian heritage. Leader of the Liberty and Justice Party and representative of the joinder list in the National Assembly, Hon. Lenox Shuman was elected to the post following a nomination by the Minister of Governance and Parliamentary Affairs. The government MPs, with their 33 majority in the House, voted in favour of the submission.



MP Dr. Tandika Smith

MP Lee Hakkim-Williams

- **Parliamentary Secretary for Amerindian Affairs**

Before the end of the month, another Amerindian, Sarah Browne of Region One was appointed Parliamentary Secretary by President, Dr. Irfaan Ali. Such Secretaries are appointed by the President under Article 186 of the Constitution to assist specific subject ministers; but they do not have voting rights. Ms. Browne was appointed to Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Hon. Pauline Sukhai.

Other persons of Amerindian heritage were also appointed to government boards and institutions. The first Minister of Amerindian Affairs under the PPP/C Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett was appointed Guyana's first United Nations Ambassador

- **Regional Chairs, Vice-chairs, Mayors, Deputies & Councillors**



Region Eight Chairman, Mr. Headley Pio taking the Oath of Office before H.E. Dr. Irfaan Ali.

The government also presided over the swearing-in of the chairpersons, the vice-chairpersons and councillors of the respective Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs) including those of the Hinterland regions. The Oath of Offices, as well, was administered to the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and councillors of the respective Municipalities and Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs). At these ceremonies, President Ali pointed out to the regional and local leaders that they had been entrusted by the people of Guyana to serve as leaders, and this was not an easy task, but a selfless, serious responsibility. The President then assured them that the PPP/C government will provide the necessary support to enable them to facilitate the development and upward movement of all residents, in every region.

- **Toshaos, Village Councils**



Mr. Marlon Edwards, new Toshao of Karasabai, Region Nine.

Mr. Lemmel Thomas, new Toshao of Kamarang, Region Seven.

Meanwhile, under the Amerindian Act No. 6 of 2006 Section 65, titled 'ELECTION' the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, through the Department of Governance, successfully facilitated and monitored the elections of Village Toshao/Councillors for the respective Amerindian Villages throughout the regions of Guyana. The Village Toshao/Councillor elections were conducted during May 2021. The Community Development Officers (CDOs) were trained to assist in conducting these elections. They were also trained in other aspects of their duties and functions to better serve their villages.

The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs has been working with new Toshaos to ensure village funds are used optimally for village development, in keeping with the government's thrust to bring the Amerindian and Hinterland residents into the mainstream of national development.

# Empowerment



Minister of Labour, Hon. Joseph Hamilton and Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Hon. Pauline Sukhai signing a Memorandum of Understanding which will see 440 Community Support Officers from hinterland communities receiving skills training.

As promised, the government has rolled out several economic stimulus programmes to Hinterland communities, supported by two comprehensive budgets and supplementary paper in one year.

*Eight and Nine by employing them as Community Support Officers (CSOs).*

As pledged, the Presidential Grant was increased. Amerindian villages are now benefitting from disbursements ranging from \$1 to \$3 million to fund community developmental projects.

*- Land Titling - providing for an initial 68 Amerindian villages to receive certificates of titles to their lands.*

The government also re-established the following programmes:

*- The Information Communications Technology (ICT) programme to provide 200 hubs in the hinterland and riverine communities and residents trained in computer literacy*

*- Youth Entrepreneurship - creating employment for over 2000 Amerindian youths between the ages of 16 - 40 in Regions One, Seven,*

*- The solar panel and the one laptop programmes*



Hinterland residents were trained in the setting up of photovoltaic systems under the Office of the Prime Minister's Information Technology (ICT) Access and eService for Hinterland Poor and Remote Communities Project.



Information Communication Technology equipment being installed in Paruima, Region Seven.

I was not doing anything in the community but farming and trying my best to help my children who are going to school. I have one that is going to Annai Secondary, and I was worried how I was going to support my son going to school, but now I have the opportunity to do so as a CSO.... am very thankful to this Government for being in power now because the previous Government did not give me this opportunity to work as a CSO or HEYS [Hinterland Employment and Youth Service], but I am very thankful that this Government is looking at helping the Amerindian people.



**Ms. Felecia Roberts**  
A Yupukari, Region Nine CSO with the responsibility for Education and Governance

We're very happy to welcome this project because it's going to be very beneficial to this community, especially for youths who are doing online courses right now and are having a difficult time. This will help them to be able to reach out to their superiors or their mentors, so that they can successfully complete their courses.



**Chris Elliman**  
A resident of Paruima, Region Nine on the new ICT project in the village.

# COVID-19



Measures were introduced to ensure the safety and food security of Amerindian and Hinterland communities.

- \$25,000 per household cash grant



Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Vickram Bharrat handing over COVID-19 cash grants to Amerindian village leaders.

On September 7, 2020, President Ali announced that provisions would be made for every household to benefit from a grant to help cushion the effects of the Covid -19 pandemic. Amerindians and Hinterland residents were the first to benefit from the roll-out of this \$25,000 per household cash grant.

- \$1.73 billion in COVID-19 Investment Fund.

This one-off relief fund was aimed at creating job opportunities, and income-generating and infrastructure development projects to assist Amerindian villages to offset the socio-economic effects of the pandemic.



Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Hon. Anand Persaud presents a cheque to Toshao of Santa Aratak, Mr. Hilton Williams.



- COVID relief hampers

In addition, the government distributed COVID relief hampers.



# MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS EVERY SECTOR

The Administration promised to reduce the disparity between the coastland and hinterland and rural communities and it has been taking steps to meet this commitment. From August 2020 to July 2021,

## Agriculture

- **Tractors to spur agriculture development**



A Toshao in one of the new tractors

As part of the government's commitment to stimulate agricultural production to ensure food security across the hinterland is sustained and secured, 112 tractors were procured. Already, many of them have been handed over to communities.

This tractor will definitely go to the development of our village. Right now, we are currently working on our roads, and definitely with the dump trailer that we are getting with the tractor, the tractor will be of good use in Bethany.



**Ms. Sonia Latchman**  
Toshao of Bethany Village  
on the village receiving a tractor.

- **Agriculture boost in Region 9**



Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha inside the shade house in Nappi, Region Nine.

Particular focus has been on building the emerging agriculture sector in Region Nine. Within the year, the Guyana Livestock Development Authority's (GLDA) extension office in the region increased its capabilities to offer improved services to livestock farmers in the Rupununi, through the acquisition of a hematology machine. A shade house was commissioned in Nappi; while \$3 million was invested to commence the cultivation of corn and soya bean in Moco Moco Village, North Rupununi. Rupertee received 400 black giant birds, incubator, and a plant nursery to boost the village's economy. The Agriculture Ministry began working to resuscitate rice cultivation at the Santa Fe mega farm in Region Nine.

Amerindian and Hinterland communities have benefitted from the roll-out of national development projects in every sector.

- **Fastac and Acoushi ants' bait programme reintroduced**

The Acoushi ants' bait and seed distribution programme was resumed to farmers in the Hinterland regions. The programme was brought to an end during the A Partnership for National Unity+ Alliance for Change (APNU+AFC) time in office. The Acoushi ant is deemed one of the most troublesome agricultural pests in Guyana, and baiting is one of the methods recommended to control it. Prior to 2015, the PPP/C administration budgeted \$10 million annually towards the programme.

- **Flood Relief**

As the country battled the unprecedented nationwide May-June flooding which impacted thousands of citizens, Amerindian and Hinterland communities also benefitted from intervention packages to revitalize their livelihood and economies. These include the distribution of relief supplies to residents.

President Ali recently assured Amerindian and Hinterland residents that more long-term flood interventions will be rolled out to assist them in rebuilding, stronger and better.



H.E. Dr. Irfaan Ali meeting with flood-affected residents in Region Two



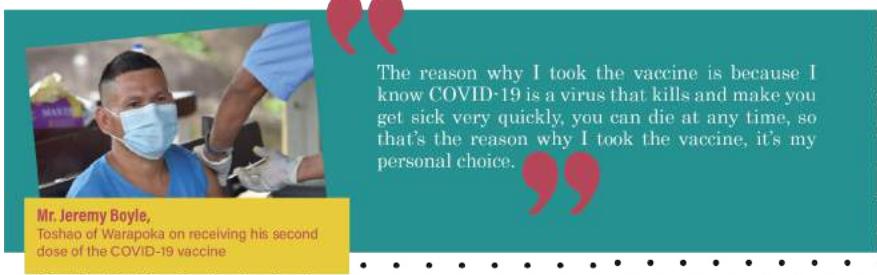
Prime Minister, Hon. Brig. (ret'd) Mark Phillips listens to residents' concerns during his visit to Upper Demerara River.



Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Hon. Nigel Dharamlall visits flood-affected areas in Region Nine

# Health

## • Vaccination



Amerindians and Hinterland residents are being vaccinated under the National COVID-19 Prevention and Control Programme that includes pursuing the agenda of ensuring at least 500,000 people are vaccinated against the virus this year. PCR testing using Gene Expert equipment is being done at all regional hospitals.



These two Amerindian women proudly display their vaccination cards

## • Infrastructure

The Bartica Hospital in Region Seven is being rebuilt, in partnership agreement with the Government of India.

Upgrading works are taking place in Lethem, Mabaruma, Bartica, Kamarang and other places.

The hospitals and health centres are also benefitting from upgrades to their X-ray, ultrasound, ECG, laboratory, anesthesia and ICU equipment. At the same time, massive efforts are in place to upgrade the professional staffing in the hospitals.



Director General at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo at the commissioning of a new x-ray machine at the Kumaka District Hospital in Region One

## • Training



The Regional Health Training Centre in Region One.

Prime Minister, Hon. Brigadier (ret'd) Mark Phillips recently commissioned a new building, which will house the Regional Health Training Centre in Region One. This is the first time that the region will have such a facility.

The Ministry of Health is also moving to ensure that the Charles Rosa Nursing School in Region 10 prioritises enrollment of Amerindian and Hinterland residents for training.

## • Medical Outreaches



During the year, specialist medical outreaches were conducted to far-flung communities and Amerindian and Hinterland residents benefited from optometry, dental, diagnostic sonography, diabetic foot care and other services during these exercises.

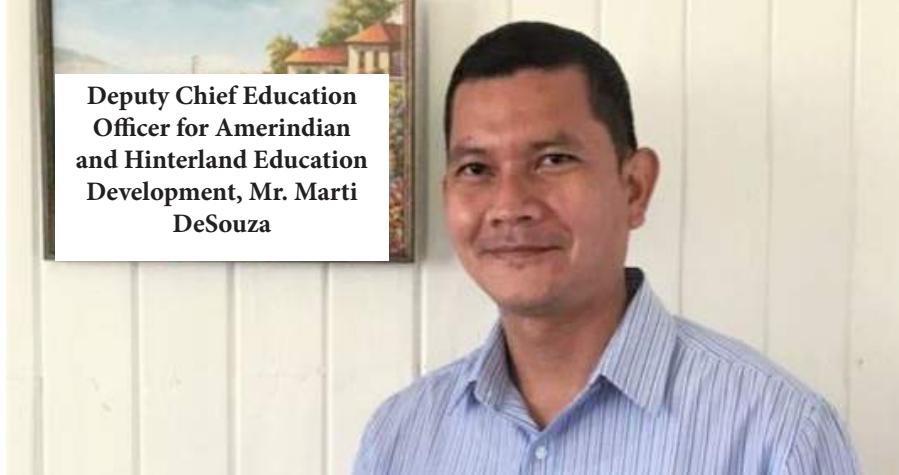


# Education

The Dr. Irfaan Ali-led PPP/C government promised in its manifesto that serious effort will be made to equalise education delivery across Guyana.

- **New AHED**

The first important steps taken in this direction was the appointment of a Deputy Chief Education Officer for Amerindian and Hinterland Education Development (AHED). Mr. Marti DeSouza was appointed to this role, importantly to work with the Ministry of Education to craft and guide the roll-out of measures that ensure that every Amerindian and hinterland child in Guyana has access to quality education thereby eliminating the gaps that exist between them and children on the coast.



Deputy Chief Education Officer for Amerindian and Hinterland Education Development, Mr. Marti DeSouza

- **Learning Resources**

Amerindian and Hinterland students were continuously supplied with learning resource material including pre-loaded tablets to continue learning during the pandemic. The Guyana Learning Channel's (GLC) reach was extended into hinterland communities, and schools were equipped with supporting equipment including televisions, allowing students access to the televised content.



Minister of Education, Hon. Priya Manickchand standing with students of the Karasabai Primary Top in Region Nine who received pre-loaded tablets



Students of the Aishalton Primary School, Region Nine looking at the Guyana Learning Channel that is now accessible in their school.

- **School vouchers & grants**

During the year, the Amerindian and Hinterland students like their counterparts on the coastland also benefitted from the reintroduction of the School Uniform Voucher which was increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000, and the 'Because We Care' cash grant, which was increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per public school student by the administration.

## Scenes from the 'Because We Care' cash grant distribution in Hinterland Communities



• **GOAL**

The Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL) scholarships being offered by the government, was taken to the Hinterland regions allowing residents the equal opportunity to access and capitalise on the chance being provided to pursue free of cost higher education from internationally recognised universities.

**Scenes from the 'GOAL' roll-out in Hinterland Communities**



• **Adolescent Mothers**

Thirty (30) adolescent mothers in Region One were equipped with skills in cookery to gain employment or to become entrepreneurs in the field. The latter training was made possible through the Re-integration of Adolescent Mothers into the Education System programme executed by the Ministry of Education.

• **Expanded PID**



Permanent Secretary, Mr. Alfred King receiving one of the signed documents for the expansion of the North West Secondary School's Practical Instruction Department in Region One from the contractor in the presence of the Minister of Education, Hon. Priya Manickchand.

An US\$832,883 contract was signed for the expansion of the North West Secondary School's Practical Instruction Department (PID) in Region One. With this expansion and the improved PID, the school will be able to offer the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) Level one and two training in five occupational areas while more will be added in the future.

• **BIT training**

Amerindian and Hinterland youths also benefitted from training under the Board of Industrial Training (BIT) that is being implemented in the several occupational fields including Information Technology, Food Preparation, High School Diploma, Agro-Processing Technologies, Auto Body Repair, Introduction to Photovoltaic Maintenance and Repairs, Motor Vehicle Repairs and Shade House Farming.

To ensure effective delivery of BIT programmes, new technical officers were placed in Regions One, Seven and Nine to properly promote capacity building and human development; Measures were also put in place to employ technical officers for the other regions.

In Mahdia, Region Eight, BIT has received a plot of land from the Mayor and Town Council and will be establishing an office and training complex in the township.

Minister of Labour, Hon. Joseph Hamilton, BIT's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Richard Maughn, and Toshao Aubrey Frederick along with trainees that participated in a five-month Shade House Cultivation training in St. Deny's/ Tapakuma village.



## Housing



A resident of Region Nine with her Certificate of Title for her land

Eradicating disparities between hinterland and coastal housing is a challenge that the government has also undertaken.

**-100 homes are to be constructed through the Hinterland Housing Programme**

**-Several house lots, Certificates of Title & Land Transports were distributed in Regions Seven and Nine Land Acquisition for new housing developments is ongoing in Regions One, Seven, Eight and Nine**

**-Block and topographic surveys for more than 130 acres of land has been executed at Poke Bridge, Lethem, Region Nine**

**-Land ownership issue being resolved with the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission for Kokerite Hill, Mabaruma, Region One, to end land allocation hiatus.**

**-Bartica, Region Seven is slated to have a resident regional housing officer for the first time, stamping out the need for the over 25,000 residents to travel to Vreed-en-hoop, Region Three, to access services.**

**-Lethem can also look forward to strengthened regional services and the construction of a \$23 million regional housing and water office.**

**-Network for residents in Kokerite Hill, Region One has been completed, and light-emitting diode (LED) street lights installed.**

**-Forty-eight street lights have been installed at the Tabatinga Housing scheme, Lethem, Region Nine.**

**-Twenty (20) street lights installed in Culvert City Housing Scheme, Lethem, Region Nine, for Enhanced Security.**

## Water

Water interventions that were undertaken during the year to the benefit of Amerindian and Hinterland residents include, but are not limited to the following:

Areas	Beneficiaries	Interventions
White Water, Region One	400 residents	Construction of a new water supply system.
Rincon, Mora and One Mile, Kumaka and Santa Rosa Island, Region One	800 residents	Expansion of the water supply system.
Barabina, Mabaruma Sub-district, Region One	65 residents	Extension of the distribution network.
Fitzberg/One to Four Mile, Port Kaituma, Region One	800 residents	New well drilled and new water supply system constructed.
Kariako, Region One	150 residents	Replacement of a damaged valve which was feeding the overhead storage tanks and three 180-watt solar panels were upgraded to 390 watts to power the pump station.
Kurutuku, Region Seven	150 residents	Drilling of a new well and construction of a new water supply system
Mahdia, Region Eight	600 residents	Drilling of a new well has improved the level and quality of service, as well as increased hours of water provided
Chiung mouth, Region Eight	200 residents	Drilling of a new well, construction of a concrete base on a hill, installation of a storage system and Photovoltaic system, laying of more than 3000 meters of pipelines and the installation of 18 individual service connections
Shulinab, Shea, Annai and Culvert City, Lethem, Region Nine	500 residents	New wells were drilled in the communities
St. Ignatius, Region Nine	1400 residents	Upgrading of the distribution Network
Parikwaranau, Region Nine	600 residents	A new well was drilled and the construction of a new water supply system is ongoing to provide improved access to potable water
Katoonarib, Region Nine	420 residents	Drilling of a new well and installation of a new distribution system.



Amerindian residents accessing water from a standpipe in the community

# Road Upgrade

The focus of the Hinterland Roads Programme has been on improving the overland connections between Hinterland communities, to improve access to health care, education and other services. Over \$2 billion was injected to fund the following projects:

## • Region One

- Completion of 10Km of Laterite Roads Maintenance, Moruca Sub District
- Completion of 500m of Rigid Pavement along Compound Road, Mabaruma
- Plans to continue 1km of Rigid Pavement along Compound Road, Mabaruma
- Plans to continue 1km of Rigid Pavement from Mabaruma to Hosororo
- Plans to continue 1km of Rigid Pavement from Port Kaituma to Oronoque
- Plans to continue 1km of Rigid Pavement from Kumaka to Kwebanna



Rehabilitation works ongoing on Compound Road in Mabaruma

## • Region Seven

- Rehabilitation of 70Km of Laterite Roads between Bartica and Mahdia
- Completion of 25km of Laterite Roads to Butakari to Bartica - Potaro
- Sectional rehabilitation of Laterite Road in Kaburi Village
- Completion of 500m of Rigid Pavement from Mile 5 to Airstrip
- Upgrade of 1km of unsurfaced road to asphalt in Bartica



Works ongoing on the Bartica Potaro Road

## • Region Eight

- Replacement of all timber members on the Denham Bridge completed
- Installation of precast culverts along Mahdia Main Access road completed
- Ongoing Rollover Projects to upgrade 1 km of Rigid Pavement in Mahdia
- \$100M in new Community Engagement Projects for communities in the North Pakaraimas

## • Region Nine

- Sectional rehabilitation of 150km Laterite Road from Lethem to Aishalton completed
- Installation of 1km Asphalt Upgrade within Lethem Internal Roads completed
- Rollover Projects to upgrade /install over 1km of Sidewalks in Lethem completed
- 150km of Unsurfaced Road/ Laterite Road up to Monkey Mountain will be upgraded
- 1km of DBST Road in St. Ignatius will be upgraded to asphalt



Rehabilitation of internal Roads in Lethem

## • Region 10

- Delivery of over 100 precast culvert elements for use in Hinterland locations completed
- Rehabilitation of 5km Laterite Roads in Kawakwani completed
- Rehabilitation of 15km along Rockstone Corridor completed
- First Phase (15 km) within communities of Butakari, Muritaro and Malali completed

## • Connecting the Hinterland & the Coastland

The government also began efforts to create major road access that will connect the Hinterland to the coastland. Efforts in these regards have seen focus on the following projects:

- Linden – Mabura Hill Road**
- Bartica to Sand Hills Road**

## Air Travel



An aircraft taking off from the new runway at Lethem, Region Nine

The removal of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on travel has significantly reduced the cost of airfare for hinterland travel.

Further, in support of air travel, the government also upgraded and maintained several air strips including the Paramakatoi airstrip which is benefitting from the construction of drains and culvert, and slope stabilisation works to the tune of \$86.6 million.

### • Lethem Aerodrome

The feasibility study and design for the upgrade of the Lethem Aerodrome to a Regional Hub is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2021. In March this year, the government commissioned the extension of the runway, a project that costs \$185 million.



The Ministry of Public Works commissioned the \$185 million new and extended runway which will allow larger aircraft to land at the Lethem Airport in Region Nine.

## Water Transport

The government in 2020 pledged to procure an Ocean-Going Passenger Cargo Ferry Vessel for the North West District (NWD). In January 2021, the contract to design, build and supply a new Ocean-going Passenger Cargo Ferry Vessel was signed between the Transport & Harbours Department (T&HD) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd to the tune of US\$12,733,403.13. The ferry is expected to be delivered in August 2022.

The government also supported the docking and rehabilitation of M.V. Malali, Makouria and Kimbia and procurement of spares for the vessels. These interventions improved the safety and reliability of the Hinterland ferry service, and the travel experience of residents.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Works, Mr. Vladim Persaud and Transport and Harbours Department General Manager, Ms. Marcelene Merchant sign the contract for the Ocean-Going Passenger Cargo Ferry Vessel for the North West District (NWD).



## Decentralised & Improved Services

Efforts in this regard, include but are not limited to the following:

- Pension payment is delivered to remote areas including to Amerindian and Hinterland residents every three to six months
- The Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN) upskill training programme among others are being rolled out to Amerindian and Hinterland communities
- Men, women and children received eyeglasses following the collaboration between the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and Revision Optical.
- The Bartica Magistrate's Court was commissioned
- Firefighters were trained for the new Mabaruma, Mahdia and Lethem fire stations
- Hinterland Community Policing Groups were established and equipped.



A Pensioner in the Hinterland receiving her payment



Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Robeson Benn handing over an All-Terrain Vehicle and a 40-horsepower engine to the newly formed Moruca Community Policing Group.



The Bartica Magistrate's Court

# Regional & Municipal Development

The Government has supported the Hinterland regions with budgetary allocations to bolster development projects.

Regions	Budget 2020	Budget 2021
One	\$3.7 billion	\$4.3 billion
Seven	\$3.2 billion	\$3.4 billion
Eight	\$2.2 billion	\$2.4 billion
Nine	\$3.1 billion	\$3.6 billion

## • Community Transformation

Funding to the regions and the municipalities and Neighbourhood Democratic Councils has supported the government's effort to create and improve access to goods and services for Amerindians.

### Works being executed include:

#### Region One -

- Roads are currently being constructed at Koberimo - Phase 2, Oronoque Road, Port Kaituma and Big Creek, Port Kaituma.
- Construction of an Infectious Disease Building at the Kumaka Hospital; the retrofitting of the former Maternal & Child Health at Kumaka District Hospital; construction of a Maternal Waiting Home Moruca; and a Doctor's Quarters at Mabaruma Hospital.
- Expansion of the Santa Rosa Secondary School

#### Region Seven -

- Improved conditions for healthcare workers, nurses and doctors with the construction of Maternal & Child Health Clinic, extension Phase II - Kamarang Hospital, the construction of Living Quarters Duplex - Bartica and the purchase of one River Ambulance.
- Construction of Primary Schools at St. Martians, Waramadong, Kurutuku and a new Nursery School building at Dogg Point

#### Region Eight -

- Continuation of construction of an All-weather Road from Port Kaituma to Kato, Phase 2.
- The Education sector will see the construction of Nursery Schools at Monkey Mountain and Kurukubaru Village, a Primary School at Kanapang and the construction of a Dormitory at the Kato Secondary School.
- Health care professionals and patients will benefit from the construction of a Maternal Waiting Home at Kato, the construction of Health Workers' Quarters at Mahdia and the purchase of one Ambulance.

#### Region Nine -

- The government will continue to ensure easy access is provided with the construction of bridges at Kabanawau Creek and Karasabai.
- Roads will also be repaired to improve access to farms, villages and tourist sites with the construction of five R/C Culverts with headwalls at Kumu, and raising and compacting of 1.3 km at Yakarinta access road.
- The construction of Teachers' Quarters at Taushida Primary Duplex, Crash Water Primary Duplex, Aishalton Primary Duplex and Primary Annex and Teachers' Quarters at Kogshebai, Construction of Resource buildings at Aishalton Secondary and Rukumuta Primary.

## • Electricity

Under the Hinterland Electrification programme, the Prime Minister's Office is supervising the following projects:

- Upgrade of the distribution network at St. Cuthbert's Mission, Region Four
- Construction a distribution network for the Kato Hydro Power Project in Region Eight
- Procuring generator sets for Mahdia, Region Eight, Karasabai, Region Nine and Port Kaituma, Region One among others.
- Photovoltaic systems were purchased for installation in Hinterland and Coastal locations.
- Mini-grid systems are slated to be installed at Bartica, Region Seven, Mahdia, Region Eight and Lethem, Region Nine.



Prime Minister, Hon. Brigadier (ret'd) Mark Phillips (centre) turning the sod for the power generation facility in Whitewater, Region One



A community road being rehabilitated



Mayor of Mabaruma, His Worship Chris Phang receiving a subvention cheque valued \$9 million from Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Hon. Anand Persaud.

## Tourism



Guyana Tourism Authority conducting Culinary Arts training in St Cuthbert's Mission

Efforts were also undertaken to boost Amerindian and Hinterland tourism products

- The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) completed a Hygiene and Sanitation Programme, which also included Peer-to-Peer Hygiene and Sanitation Training due to a continued effort to promote safe travel and safe communities with training sessions held in South Rupununi, North Rupununi and Central Rupununi communities. In addition to training, these communities also received donations of equipment and sanitising supplies to help mitigate against increasing cases in their communities. Several lodges were granted conditional approval to operate following training and submission of their Standard Operating Procedures.

- The Community-Led and Owned Tourism (CLOT) framework in Santa Aratak and Lake Capoey was implemented with the initial product assessment on community attractions, tour guide training and delivering quality service.

- British High Commission's support was secured for the installation of a Photovoltaic system at Moraikobai Lodge. This is in the procurement stage for the installation of water and internet systems at Moraikobai, together, with Photovoltaic system and water system at Kezee Ecolodge, Karasabai.

- The GTA secured funding from Adventure Travel Conservation Fund to support conservation projects in Karasabai, Rewa and Yupukari. These projects commenced in July 2021.

Meanwhile, to support business development, the Tourism Ministry, through the Department of Commerce established additional business registration hubs in the interest of efficient nationwide processing of business registrations in five hubs located in Corentyne, Bartica, Mahdia,

Lethem and Mabaruma. The Bureau of Standards also expanded its capacity to conduct National Quality Award audits nationwide through the Opening of a Region Seven branch office



Guyana Tourism Authority's Hygiene and Sanitation Training in Lake Capoey

# Community Engagements



The PPP/C government has continuously noted how fitting it is to contribute to the betterment of the livelihoods of the Nation's First Peoples. It is this vision to incorporate them and assist in whatever way possible which have guided the government to spread out across the regions, to meet with the residents and hear from them on bolstering development in their communities.

## Scenes from various community engagements



# Scenes from various community engagements



# Hinterland residents praise Government's development programmes



**Mr Lewis DeVair**  
Toshao of Orealla

The government, their performance is of a high standard. I'm saying that is because with the assistance they have been rendering for the short period of time, they have been paying keen interest in the community's affairs, like not only politically, but you know generally in our lifestyle, like in development and in other things.



I just want to see my children go to school more and this grant will help a lot because I find it so hard sometimes because there are times my husband is not working. This grant is a blessing to us parents, you know the people are so excited.



**Mrs. Carol Thomas**  
Mother of four, resident of Wakapau, on the 'Because We Care' cash grant



A lot of persons in the hinterland area had challenges in completing academic certificates and so forth and like in our end here it was a big challenge because we had parents who were unable to send their child or children out to complete their schooling and to have this programme on board it will benefit them.



**Mr. Earl Rodrigues**  
Resident of Karaburi on the GOAL scholarship

It is moving to know that the government has focused upon indigenous people and the livelihoods, since I have been in office, I have noticed that the various ministries would have visited us and they visited with not just a bag of nothing but they came and they offered and they make tremendous contributions towards our people



**Mr. Deon Andrews**  
Resident and councillor of St Cuthbert's Mission

I'm here in Kato Village to sign a contract which is five million dollars to repair our roads from Paramakatoi to Kato, again I'm very grateful for that and I'm sure that my people on behalf of my people I must say thank you so much, we are looking forward for so many other good things to happen.



**Mrs. Sherry Ann Balkarran**  
Deputy Toshao of Paramakatoi on the upgrading of the community's road

We have been embarking on road development, more infrastructure of building roads and right now we want to connect two schools together, like an eight mile stretch of road, we have been over the past years doing that mainly by hand not with any machinery and our people would have been fetching sand in bags and so on, so the gift here, the tractor with the trailer is so ideal for us



**Mr. Lloyd Perreia**  
Toshao of Wakapau on the village receiving a tractor

This is the thing we was longing for, because this is very far from the hospital and its very expensive, so doing such a programme is very good, thanks to the government a lot for visiting us, so they can visit these doctors at different areas and see their complaints



**Mr. Thomas Charles**  
Toshao of St Monica/ Karawab on the special medical outreach to the community



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MARK PHILLIPS  
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HON. DR. BHARRAT JAGDEO  
VICE PRESIDENT



HON. ANIL NANDLALL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL &  
MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS



HON. DR. ASHNI SINGH  
SENIOR MINISTER,  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WITH  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCE



HON. GAIL TEIXEIRA  
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS & GOVERNANCE



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MINISTER OF HOUSING  
& WATER



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HON. JUAN EDGHILL  
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YOUTH & SPORT



HON. DR. VINDHYA PERSAUD  
MINISTER OF HUMAN  
SERVICES & SOCIAL SECURITY



HON. NIGEL DHARAMLALL  
MINISTER OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT & REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



HON. SONYA PARAG  
MINISTER OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE



HON. KWAME M<sup>C</sup> COY  
MINISTER WITHIN THE  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER



HON. ANAND PERSAUD  
MINISTER WITHIN THE  
MINISTRY OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT & REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



HON. SUSAN RODRIGUES  
MINISTER WITHIN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & WATER



HON. DEODAT INDAR  
MINISTER WITHIN THE  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

# A LOOK BACK AT AMERINDIAN HERITAGE MONTH 2020

Amerindian Heritage Month 2020 was held virtually, celebrated under the theme “Fostering traditional practices for a safe environment”, in response to the country’s implementation of social measures against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

As we prepare for this year’s observation, here is a look back at the innovative and creative month that was celebrated in 2020, despite the pandemic.

