



A BETTER GUYANA FOR ALL GUYANESE

"Guyana has been able to do what few developing forested countries have done - resist the economic forces to cut their natural resources for cash."
- Forbes.com (Apr. 2013)

"We believe that the best-kept secret for native English (outsourced services) in Latin America is Guyana."
- Frost & Sullivan (Jan. 2014)

"During the last decade, Guyana's strong macroeconomic performance has contributed to a reduction in public debt levels and sustained poverty reduction."
- International Monetary Fund (Dec. 2013)

"Guyana... may be the best kept secret in South America."
- National Geographic Traveler Magazine (Dec. 2013/Jan. 2014)

"Guyana is a good example of a country that has done some of the right things... they have come a very, very long way in terms of their fiscal situation."
- Inter-American Development Bank (Feb. 2014)

BUDGET 2014

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Budget at a Glance – 2014

Budget 2014 is presented under the theme
A Better Guyana for All Guyanese

Key Achievements in 2013

- The economy recorded its eighth consecutive year of growth, with real GDP expanding by 5.2 percent. This represents the longest period of uninterrupted real economic growth in independent Guyana.
- Non-sugar GDP grew even more rapidly by 6.3 percent, reflecting the underlying strength of the other sectors of the economy.
- The rice production expanded by 26.9 percent to 535,439 tonnes, the highest ever annual production in the history of the industry.
- Gold industry achieved a 9.7 percent growth to 481,087 ounces, the highest recorded in the entire history of the gold industry including Omai production.
- Export earnings amounted to US\$1.4 billion.
- Total Foreign Direct Investment amounted to US\$214 million.
- Gross International Reserves amounted to US\$776.9 million, equivalent to 3.9 months of import cover in 2013.
- Credit to the Private Sector expanded by 14.5 percent.
- Inflation rate amounted to 0.9 percent, the lowest rate of inflation in decades.
- Exchange rates remained stable throughout the year and, at the end of the year, the Guyana Dollar was being traded against the US Dollar at \$206.25 compared to \$204.5 a year ago.
- The fiscal deficit of the non-financial public sector amounted to \$28.7 billion or 4.7 percent of GDP

- **Old Age Pension** - the old age pension to be increased by 5 percent with effect from 1 May 2014 to \$13,125 monthly. This increase would result in a total of \$212.5 million in additional disposable income being placed in the hands of 42,500 of our senior citizens, and will bring the total old age pension bill to \$6.6 million.
- **OAP Electricity Assistance Programme** - the value of this electricity assistance programme will be increased by 50 percent to \$30,000 per annum for each eligible beneficiary. This will result in an additional \$300 million of disposable income being placed in the hands of our most senior citizens.
- **Hinterland Roads** -provides an allocation of \$1 billion to be expended on rehabilitating critical interior arteries including the Linden to Lethem road.
- **Clean Up Campaign** - Government will allocate the sum of \$1 billion to this Clean Up My Country initiative, of which the sum of \$500 million will be dedicated to immediate efforts to clean the capital city.
- **Education Grants** - Government will provide this year a cash grant to the parents of every child attending a nursery, primary, or secondary school in the public education system in the amount of \$10,000 per child. This initiative will benefit 188,406 families of the students of public nursery, primary, and secondary schools, and will cost a total of \$2 billion.

Budget Measures

- **Sugar Industry** - Transfer a further \$6 billion to GUYSUOCO to help the industry achieve the reversal of fortunes.
- **Rice Industry** -In order to ensure that our rice industry retains its competitive advantage, even in harsher market conditions, \$500 million will be injected into the industry to support its efforts to increase competitiveness and resilience.
- **Other Agriculture** - Acquisition of planting material and breeding stock for distribution to farmers along with expanded extension services, for which purpose, a sum of \$200 million has been allocated.
- **Rural Enterprise Development** - \$1 billion has been provided to support this initiative and it is expected that thousands of persons will benefit, either through employment obtained or other linkages, from enterprise incubation grants made under this facility.
- **Tourism Development** - Government will commence making a US\$4 million investment in the establishment of a hospitality institute to ensure that will produce world class personnel for this important industry going forward.
- **Port Georgetown** - To support the preparatory work, an allocation of \$100 million to advance the required technical and other assessments.
- **Guyana Power and Light Inc.** - Government has included an allocation of \$3.7 billion to support critical capital expenditure by the company without which steeper tariffs would be unavoidable. This support will ultimately redound to the benefit of all 170,000 of GPL's customers and their families.
- **Linden Electricity** - \$3.2 billion allocated to meet the cost of maintaining the electricity subsidy in Linden and Kwakwani so that 10,500 electricity customers in Region 10 can continue to benefit from rates that are highly subsidised.

SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

B. Low Carbon Development Strategy

2013

- To date, Guyana has earned three consecutive payments from Norway totalling US\$115 million within the framework of our Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).
- Four GRIF projects, with a combined approximate value of US\$30 million, were in their implementation phases.
- Under the US\$7 million Institutional Strengthening project significant progress was made towards the development of Guyana's first national scale Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System.
- Under the US\$6 million allocation to the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF), milestone disbursements were made to all 26 of the initial beneficiary communities for the implementation of their development plans in promoting sustainable village economies.
- Under the US\$5 million Micro and Small Enterprise Development project, applications for loans with reduced interest rates have already started to be processed for entrepreneurs with business ventures in low carbon sectors.
- In the last quarter of 2013, the US\$10.7 million Amerindian Land Titling project was approved and commenced implementation.

2014

- A sum totaling US\$90.6 million has been allocated for continued implementation of the GRIF projects.
- New interventions are expected to include ecotourism development, aquaculture development and rehabilitation works on the Cunha Canal.
- National Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan will developed.
- A sum of US\$80 million is allocated to meet Guyana's equity contribution to Amaila Falls Hydro Project.

C. Transforming the Economy

(a) Modernising the Traditional Sectors

**Sugar
2013**

- Sugar exports accounted for 8.3 percent of total exports valued at US\$112.2 million.
- The industry contributed 3.9 percent of our country's GDP.
- Approximately 18,000 families are directly dependent on the sugar industry for employment, making it still the largest single employer of all industries in Guyana

- It is estimated that some 120,000 persons are directly or indirectly affected by the industry.
- Government transferred a total of US\$195 million to GUYSUICO over the period from 2005 to 2013 in support of its various restructuring and turnaround initiatives.
- This exceeds the total of €110.1 million equivalent to US\$145.9 million received from the EU under the accompanying measures programme since its introduction.

2014

- GUYSUICO aims to substantially advance the mechanisation process.
- Increase yields through piloting the use of organic fertilizers.
- Lower transportation and production cost by improving access to sugarcane fields.
- Create greater efficiency of the drainage and irrigation system.
- Establish a modern agricultural industrial complex.

Rice 2013

- Work progressed on the US\$4 million Santa Fe project which saw the commencement of the construction of a silo and a rice mill on site.
- In 2013, two new mills were established in Berbice and Essequibo bringing the total number of rice mills to seventy-four.
- Guyana can now boast of having its first line of aromatic local rice variety with over 500 acres grown

2014

- Government will continue to facilitate a suitable business environment to attract investments in the required areas, and mandate greater diversification of export markets to reduce the existing vulnerability.

Bauxite 2013

- Bosai and BCGI investing sums exceeding US\$17.5 million in 2013

2014

- BCGI is also expected to exceed investments of US\$20 million on the development of the Kurubuka deposit
- Bosai's projected investments will be substantially applied towards the conversion of heavy fuel oil to coal for the production of energy for their kiln which will promote energy efficiency.

Gold 2013

- The gold mining sector has for another consecutive year played an important role in the domestic economy and delivered record breaking production.

2014

- The Guyana Goldfields project at Aurora is advancing aggressively for late 2014

Targets for 2014

- The Guyanese economy is projected to expand by 5.6 percent in 2014.
- Sugar industry is projected to record a 15.6 percent growth in output to 215,910 tonnes
- Rice industry is projected to grow by a moderate 1 percent, with a production target of 540,793
- Gold industry is expected to produce 484,562 ounces, a 0.7 percent growth.
- The construction sector is projected to expand by 7.5 percent
- The manufacturing sector is projected to achieve robust growth of 7.1 percent.
- The banking sector is expected to record 11.9 percent growth
- The information and communication sector is projected to expand by 4.2 percent
- For the year 2014, an inflation rate of 5 percent is targeted.
- Overall balance of payments is estimated to record an overall deficit of US\$21.9 million in 2014, compared to a deficit of US\$119.5 million in 2013
- Mr. Speaker the size of Budget 2014 is \$220 billion, Guyana's largest budget ever.
- The overall deficit of the non-financial public sector is programmed at \$34.6 billion or 5.2 percent of GDP.

compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

- Work commenced on a payroll audit for health and education that will be completed in the third quarter of 2014.
- In the area of public private partnerships a white paper to guide policy and modalities will be concluded while sensitisation sessions on issues related to discoveries of oil and gas will be conducted.

d. National Statistics

2014

- It is anticipated that the preliminary census report will be available by the end of the first half of 2014.
- Work will subsequently continue in 2014 on the processing and analysis of the data that would inform results in the main Report.
- During 2014, the Bureau will undertake to train data collection officers within the hinterland regions to ensure more timely data gathering and more efficient logistics in those areas in the future.

e. Governance

2013

- First time in the history of independent Guyana, the judiciary has been approached on several occasions to interpret Parliamentary action and constitutional provisions on matters before or emanating from the National Assembly.
- Guyana has been challenged in passing a CFATF compliant Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill. The fact that Guyana has missed successive deadlines means that Guyana now faces being blacklisted globally.

2014

- Guyana just a week ago completed its Fourth Round Review before the OAS Mechanism for the Implementation of the Convention Against Corruption (MESICIC).
- We have consulted extensively and intensively in areas such as the development of national housing policy, identifying bottlenecks and solutions to improving maternal health, on the effectiveness of student based assessments and technical and vocational education training (TVET) policy, on bridging Guyana's mining sector with a low carbon development path, on disaster risk management within agriculture, on the phasing out of styrofoam use, the National Toshias Conference and the National Economic Forum, to name but a few.
- We have created Houses of Justice, expanded the use of one-stop-shop modality for delivering greater access to services across several sectors including housing and human services and encouraged our citizens to be the eyes and ears of

start up.

- The ETK/Sandspring project at Toraparu is also poised for further developmental works geared to production start up by 2015.

(b) New and Emerging Sectors

(i) Information and Communication Technology

2013

- Under the One Laptop Per Family (OLPF) initiative, 2013 saw an additional 9,052 laptops distributed to beneficiaries in Regions 4 and 5, resulting in a total of 35,884 laptops being distributed to date.
- 3,494 recipients completed training in basic proficiency in the use of the computer, internet browsing, and basic word processing and spreadsheet skills.
- \$2.1 billion was invested by the Government to implement the e-Government project.
- A data centre has been completed, which will act as the central hub for communications and computing for Government agencies.
- 41 of the intended 54 4G Long Term Evolution Advanced (LTE-A) sites have been completed along the coast to facilitate transmission of e-Government content and delivery of e-Government services.
- The Telecommunications Bill 2012 and Public Utilities Commission 2012 are currently under consideration by a Special Select Committee of the National Assembly.
- The passage of this suite of legislation will level the proverbial playing field for private sector entrants into the industry, increase competition, and lower of cost of related services to the end user.

2014

- \$1.1 billion is budgeted in 2014 for the completion of works under the e-Government project.
- Under the OLPF initiative, \$2 billion is budgeted for the acquisition of a third batch of laptops, with an estimated 17,948 laptops scheduled for distribution this year.
- Before the end of the year, 100 percent of our secondary schools will have functioning IT labs.
- Qualfon commenced construction of a new facility in Guyana described as one of the largest contact centres in the world and which will see the creation of 6,000 new jobs for young Guyanese over the next five years

(ii) Oil

2013/2014

- CGX Resources Inc. remained optimistic about the prospects within their offshore prospecting areas.

- Repsol Exploracion Guyana S.A. and partners Tullow Guyana B.V., plan an aggressive programme to unveil the geological complexities of the block.
- Esso and Shell have been preparing with surveys of their own and prior actions that could be consistent with a favourable analysis for further defining exploration activity.
- Government undertook to develop a policy which seeks to address such issues as licensing and contracting, fiscal framework, capacity building, transparency and accountability, environmental management and measurement indicators

Agricultural diversification

2013

- \$2 billion was spent on agriculture diversification initiatives.
- More than 200 persons were trained in aquaculture production, while 5,800 farmers were trained in crop production.
- 17 community based organisations received financing for various agricultural related developmental projects
- \$400 million was spent on seeds, fertiliser, planting materials, and extension services.

2014

- \$1.5 billion is budgeted to be spent on the sector
- 10,000 acre Canje Basin investment will be added to the landscape, joining the Santa Fe mega-farm investment.
- Government will also work closely with supply chain agents to lower transportation and transaction cost.
- The sector will be bolstered with the launch of the Agriculture Disaster Risk Management plan.
- Enhance the Early Warning Systems (EWS) and commence the execution of the Pesticide and Toxic Chemical Emergency Response Plan.

(iv) Tourism

2013

- Tourism remains one the sectors in which Guyana has a strong comparative advantage given our vast and diverse endowment of nature, our geographical location, and the advantage of a large diasporic market.
- Visitor arrivals totaled 200,122 reflecting a 13.3 percent increase over 2012.
- Work commenced on the development of a Hinterland Tourism Development Plan.
- 442 industry personnel were trained in a number of areas including customer service, frontline, housekeeping, kitchen procedures and community based tourism.

2014

- In 2014, progress will continue to be made on the implementation of selected activities under the revised Doing Business Action Plan.
- Work will commence toward the introduction of electronic filing of cases at the Commercial Court.
- Later this year taxpayers with internet connection will be able to access an electronic banking system to make payments of income, property and other taxes thus reducing transaction time and costs incurred while work is ongoing to facilitate online filing of income taxes.
- The GRA has also already launched automated drivers licences with the view of encouraging the strengthening of controls, decreasing the risk of forgery, and expanding the use of technology in monitoring. Other means will also be sought to simplify and streamline taxpayer interaction with the GRA.
- In addition, services for importers and exporters of goods will be enhanced given the recently operationalised second mobile container scanner
- Transparency and accountability will also be strengthened through the introduction of a random selection of imported goods for examination.
- To increase surveillance and to minimise tax evasion and smuggling activities, several initiatives are being undertaken including the operationalisation of multi-purpose ports of entry in Eteringbang, Parika and Charity to intensify the enforcement of customs and tax laws both on land and at sea.

c. Strengthening Public Administration

2013

- Emphasis continued to be placed on strengthening the capacity of the national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems through the development of monitoring indicators to track outputs and outcomes where practicable.
- Continued to train the technical cadre of the public service in key concepts of monitoring and evaluation with 70 trained in 2013, bringing the total exposed to date to 473 persons with another 250 slated to be trained this year.

2014

- Work intensified in the two pilot sectors of health and education and in 2014, an evaluation of the nurses training programme will be done in an effort to determine ways to improve student performance and achieve greater value for money given the significant expenditure outlay.
- Support will be given to develop strategic plans for ministries and regions and for the first time regional action plans will be formulated to support the consistent roll out of the new five year strategic plan for education sector.
- Internal audit capability continues to be strengthened with a high level oversight committee. The centralised internal audit staff will also review findings in the Audit Office's annual report and follow up with Government Agencies to ensure

H. Other Institutional Reforms

a. Financial Sector Reform

2013

- The commercial banking sector continued its aggressive branch expansion drive with the establishment of branches countrywide particularly in the interior locations of Guyana. New branches were opened at Lethem in Region 9 and Port Kaituma in Region 1.
- A significant development within the financial sector was the licensing of the first credit bureau in Guyana. The milestone licence was issued to Creditinfo (Guyana) Incorporated in July 2013.
- The introduction of Mobile Money Guyana (MMG), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (GT&T)
- In the area of AMLCFT, as is well known now, Guyana responded to recommendations made by Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) by introducing into the National Assembly an Amendment Bill which will address more than 90 percent of these recommendations made.

2014

- Another bank would soon be establishing its presence in Region 6 at Port Mourant. Work is also continuing apace in the capital city on the construction of two new head offices for two of the smaller banks.
- Drafting of the new Insurance Act and attendant regulations are currently being finalised and it is anticipated that this act will become law before the end of 2014

b. Improving the Business Environment

2013

- Work advanced on some of the actions identified in Guyana's Doing Business Action Plan – specifically, in relation to the indicator targeting the property registration process, activities related to the physical, legal and administrative separation of Deeds, Land and Company registries. These included the passage of the Deeds and Commercial Registries Act of 2013 by this Honourable House and the relocation of the Land Registry to a more central area facilitating greater ease of access.
- The Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) continued to be committed to delivering high quality services to its clients by consistently applying policies, regulations and practices. The Total Revenue Integrated Processing System (TRIPS) was reviewed and enhancements were identified to improve technological capacity to reduce transaction time and costs.
- In addition, capacity was also built at Integrated Tax Offices to provide a full range of services at locations in Parika, Lethem, Corriverton, New Amsterdam, Linden, Anna Regina and Bartica.

2014

- Two new Latin American airlines announced the introduction of flights to Guyana with effect from the current year.
- Guyana's premium hotel room stock will be given a significant boost with the opening for commercial operation of the five-star Marriott Hotel
- This 197 room full service hotel will include an entertainment complex along with conference and banqueting facilities and a promenade. The Marriott is the first major international brand to come to Guyana in over 40 years

v) Small Business

2013

- Government has sought to ensure greater access to affordable financing through three new facilities: a Credit Guarantee Fund, a Low Carbon Grant Scheme and an Interest Payment Support Facility.
- Under the Credit Guarantee Fund resources will be provided for up to 40 percent of the collateral requirement for any loan to a maximum of \$12 million.
- Under the Low Carbon Grant Scheme a maximum of \$300,000 would be provided per applicant as a grant or partial grant to set up or expand businesses in a low carbon sector.
- Interest Payment Support Facility to provide reductions on interest costs to existing loans. Beneficiaries under the Credit Guarantee Fund are eligible but a higher interest rate reduction determined by the Partner Financial Institutions (PFIs) will be granted to those businesses in the priority areas of the low carbon sector such as fruit and vegetable farming and processing, aquaculture, eco-tourism, sustainable forestry and wood processing, business process outsourcing and bio-ethanol production
- Government has negotiated special concessions for the PFIs which allow SME beneficiaries to access financing at a maximum interest rate of 6 percent per annum.
- In 2013, a sum of \$360 million was expended in support of these three SME financing sources, conducting public awareness campaigns and designing a monitoring and evaluation system and a management information system.
- Over 30 loan applications for new and established entrepreneurs are currently being assessed and processed by the partner financial institutions and over 2,200 jobs are expected to be created and sustained.
- Approximately 340 entrepreneurs benefitted from business development and technical skills training including
- Under the Women of Worth (WoW) Programme, an additional 44 loans were issued in 2013 valued at \$9 million bringing the total portfolio to date to \$62.8 million.
- Government has also commenced the implementation of the Caribbean Local Economic Development (CARILED) initiative with the goal of developing models of local economic development for replication in other Caribbean countries.

2014

- In 2014 the sum of \$212.6 million is allocated to continue these facilities.
- Over 1,000 persons will be trained in business development and technical skills such as record keeping, market research, entrepreneurship, and other relevant areas.
- A management information system will be established and an additional 1,200 small businesses are expected to be added to national register thereby increasing the numbers of small businesses registered to 3,385.
- 40 outreach programmes will be conducted countrywide to explore the potential for networking and SME clusters to meet the demand of the supply chain. Through this initiative the incomes of 1,000 new and 2,185 existing small and medium entrepreneurs will be significantly boosted.
- We will undertake a study to identify and map SME clusters in across the country and support marketing both locally and internationally through exhibitions, trade fairs, conferences, skills matching and business advisory services.
- In January 2014, the Board of the Linden Enterprise Network (LEN) was officially announced and installed to continue to offer the critical services previously provided by LEAP and LEAF to Linden and the Region 10 communities. The initial start-up seed capital of \$50 million for the venture is already available and LEN will be operationalised this year.
- Under CARILED, Technical assistance and small equipment will be provided to targeted community development groups and emphasis will be placed on women and youth.
- Also under CARILED, four demonstration projects have been approved for implementation. The Mara Agriculture Enhancement Project on the East Bank of Berbice has already been launched while the Tapakuma Women Agriculture Diversification Project, the Canal Polders Green Initiative Project, and the Friendship Swine Development Project are programmed to be launched soon.

(D) Physical Infrastructure for Transformation

a. Roads and Bridges

2013

- \$11.3 billion invested to continue the construction of the East Bank Demerara and East Coast Demerara four lane highways, Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA) access road, rural, community and hinterland roads, additional street lighting, and the rehabilitation of the Demerara Harbour Bridge

2014

- In 2014, an amount of \$13.7 billion is budgeted to improve our roads and bridges network, of which \$12.9 billion will be spent on roads and \$844.2 million on

- In addition, a new National Action Plan 2014-2015 for trafficking in persons is currently being developed

b. Justice

2013

- In 2013, \$275.5 million was spent on infrastructure in the justice sector for the construction and upgrade of several facilities.
- Guyana's Law Reports for the period 1930 to 2007, and the revision of the Laws of Guyana up to 2010 were completed, and the latter is now available in print for the first time in 34 years.

2014

- \$1.8 billion has been budgeted to consolidate the advances already made within the justice sector.
- In 2014 voice recording will be introduced for the first time in the Chief Justice's Court, the Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal which is expected to further reduce the time taken to record and process cases.
- Moreover, Government has also increased the number of Puisne Judges to 20 with a view to enhancing the system's capacity to discharge its important functions in a timely manner.
- Investment in infrastructure will continue apace, with an amount of \$238.5 million allocated to fund the construction of a Land Court, a new Magistrates' Court at Sparendam, the completion of the No. 51 Village Court, the rehabilitation of court rooms at the High Court, and maintenance of facilities nationwide.

G. Foreign Relations

- In 2013, work continued apace, under Guyana's coordination, on the revision of the existing Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, to update the institutional arrangements and modernise the region's infrastructure.
- In 2014, Guyana will press ahead with deeper implementation of the CSME regimes. In this regard, it will be recalled that the Caribbean Skilled Nationals Act was amended and approved by the National Assembly on February 27, 2014, to confer a contingent right to the spouse of a person who holds a Skilled National Certificate, to enable that spouse to engage in gainful employment or other occupation without having to obtain a work permit.

- 3,189 individuals were interviewed and 2,596 were employed.

2014

- Over 3,000 individuals will gain employment in 2014

F. Enhancing Security and Justice

a. Public safety and security

2013

- \$17.3 billion was expended in 2013.
- \$99 million was spent on the installation of IT equipment and software for the remote surveillance, the expansion of the Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS) to support the development of four additional modules in traffic, occurrence, digitising firearm licence and executive management interface.
- \$230 million was expended targeting 81 police officers who benefited from overseas training, 12 coxswains were trained in command of territorial sea patrol boats, 60 firefighters underwent a training of trainers exercise in specialised rescue and municipal fire fighting.
- \$1 billion was expended in 2013 for the construction and rehabilitation of joint services buildings countrywide including the forensic laboratory.
- A further \$1.2 billion was spent on the acquisition and maintenance of equipment to support the operations of the security sector while land and water transport fleet benefitted from investments totalling \$913.1 million.
- \$232 million was spent to support marine operations in order to strengthen its capacity to combat piracy and other crimes committed in our territorial sea and internal waterways.

2014

- \$19.5 billion is allocated for sector.
- Training will be conducted for the Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) Unit and a sum of \$382.6 million has been allocated to train the Joint Services, while \$413 million is budgeted to train and equip community policing
- \$1.2 billion has been allocated for the completion of the forensic laboratory and the fire training school and the continuous upgrading of physical infrastructure across the Joint Services in locations across the country.
- A sum of \$1.1 billion has been allocated to support land, air and sea operations of the Joint Services while another \$1.1 billion is allocated to effectively equip our forces to serve and protect our citizens.
- The National Drug Strategy Master Plan (NDSMP) 2014-2018 will be finalised to enhance Guyana's ability to combat drugs at the local, regional and international levels.

bridges.

- The four lane access road to the CJIA and the East Bank Demerara four-lane highway are slated for completion this year
- The widening of the East Coast Highway will continue and road reconstruction works for the upgrading of Better Hope to Belfield will commence.
- Also in 2014, we will complete a financial feasibility study for the construction of a bypass road from Ogle to Eccles
- An amount of \$7.7 billion is allocated for the improvement of rural, community and hinterland roads and for street lighting from Belle Vue to Patentia
- Government has invited expressions of interest for a public-private partnership for its construction and budgeted \$338 million for critical works to extend the life of the Demerara Harbour Bridge

(b) Air and River Transport

2013

- \$1.1 billion was expended on the expansion and modernisation of the CJIA
- \$67.2 million was disbursed for the maintenance of hinterland airstrips while \$80 million was spent to procure an Automated Dependent Surveillance Broadcast to bring the precision and reliability of satellite based surveillance to our national airspace.
- \$682.6 million was spent for the docking of several ferry vessels, the acquisition of spares, and the rehabilitation of stellings

2014

- A total of \$6.6 billion has been budgeted for the CJIA.
- \$231.1 million is allocated for the rehabilitation and maintenance of hinterland airstrips and a further \$773.9 million is budgeted for dredging equipment, ferry vessels, and spares and for the rehabilitation of stellings.

(c) Sea and River Defence

2013

- The sum of \$1.7 billion was disbursed for the improvement of our sea and river defence infrastructure.

2014

- the sum of \$1.9 billion is budgeted to ensure the further strengthening of our sea and river defence infrastructure
- Critical works will be done in Regions 2 to 7. The mangrove restoration and replanting programme will continue with the planting of 50,000 mangrove seedlings, spartina grassing in selected areas, the construction of geotextile breakwater structures, and the hydrological restoration of Wellington Park mangrove site.
- Government will invest more than US\$65 million over the next 5 years in infrastructural works and coastal zone management systems, which will benefit

almost 90 percent of our population.

- These interventions include construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of more than 80 kilometres of sea and river defence infrastructures, the implementation of an integrated shore zone management system that will enhance resilience to coastal and riverain hazards, and integrated flood risk preparedness strategies.

(d) Drainage and Irrigation

2013

- Government expended \$5.8 billion in this sector
- The Hope/Douchfour public road high bridge was substantially completed
- two new drainage pump stations were completed and operationalised and outfall channels in Regions 2, 3, 4 and 6, were desilted.

2014

- A total of \$6.9 billion is allocated for the completion of drainage and irrigation structures for the Northern Relief Channel Project, the completion of Hope/Douchfour public road bridge, the construction of nine new drainage pump stations at Windsor Forest, Canal Polder, Pine Ground, No. 66 Village, Paradise, Gangaram, Eversham, No. 43 Village and Lima and the rehabilitation of intake structures and sluices at Ann's Grove, Hope, Annandale and Nancy in addition to other works.

(d) Energy, Power Generation and Supply

2013

- MOU establishing a Guyana-Brazil Joint Technical Group has been concluded which mandated the group to identify concrete actions and timelines for the construction of a hydroelectric plant in the Mazaruni and the transmission lines necessary to export electricity to Brazil and further afield.
- An amount of \$10.6 billion was invested in the energy sector.
- Investments included the completion of two new substations at Sophia and Good Hope and continuing works on five others, the rehabilitation and extension of transmission and distribution networks, frequency conversion, and installation of 8,846 prepaid meters, 785 Itron meters and 1,800 smart meters.
- Guyana Power and Light Inc. received substantial support in prioritising actions to ensure improvements in reliability of power supply and reducing both technical and commercial losses.

2014

- \$7.7 billion is allocated to this sector. In excess of \$200 million has been budgeted for the implementation of activities targeting improved management capacity and capabilities, operational efficiency and loss reduction.
- The completion of the distribution network in Matthew's Ridge, expansion of the electricity network in Port Kaituma and the distribution of 540 solar home systems to 10 hinterland villages benefiting in excess of 3,000 hinterland residents.

- 770 single parents are targeted to benefit from Government training programmes
- 50 single parents will benefit under training done in collaboration with the private sector

Elderly 2013

- 42,990 pensioners benefited from monthly old age pensions
- 30 patient care assistants were trained

2014

- Improving the standards of care being offered at the Palms Institution with the view of establishing best practices
- Centres for the elderly will be established in various communities

Homeless

- 90 street dwellers benefited daily from services provided at the Night Shelter
- Hugo Chavez Centre for Rehabilitation and Reintegration was commissioned and will accommodate 100 males and 80 females

Indigenous Communities

2013

- \$77.9 million was spent to commence demarcation and extension activities in 8 villages while investigation activities continued in another 7 villages.
- 26 Community Development Plans were implemented
- Over \$1 million was expended with the focus placed on supporting beekeeping, the marketing of crab wood oil products and on strengthening the fish ponds and pineapple production.
- \$74.6 million was spent to the benefit of 430 students
- \$200 million was spent on the Youth Entrepreneurship and Apprenticeship Programme (YEAP)
- 198 persons were trained in basic computer skills and solar panel installation
- \$287.7 million was expended to procure solar systems for ICT hubs

2014

- \$796 million has been allocated for the continuation of YEAP
- Work will continue on the construction of 100 hubs in 100 villages to the benefit of 57,000 persons
- Over 470 students will benefit from the \$66.6 million allocated to the Hinterland Scholarship Programme.

Other Vulnerable Groups

2013

- \$15.2 million was spent on improved software which permits job seekers and employers to upload their applications or vacancy requests to the website.

- A sum of \$1.1 billion is budgeted for the completion of civil works and for operational expenses at the Haags Bosch Sanitary Landfill 320 tonnes of solid waste daily

f. Vulnerable Groups and Other Targeted Interventions

Children 2013

- Development of the Childcare and Development Services Regulations
- Childcare and Protection Agency (CPA) prevented 2,432 children from being separated from their families
- 519 children were removed from abusive situations
- 205 placed in a family setting through the foster care programme
- Mahaica Children's Home completed and houses 62 vulnerable children

2014

- \$382.5 million allocated for delivery of childcare and protection services.
- Training will be conducted in all regions for approximately 2,000 parents.

Youth 2013

- Over 2,300 young people benefited from training under the National Training Programme for Youth Employment (NTPYE), the Apprenticeship Programme, and the Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training (YEST)
- Over \$61 million was expended on equipping, maintaining and rehabilitating training centres nationwide

2014

- In 2014, it is expected that over 3,500 youth will benefit from continued training
- Commencement of a hinterland training programme expected to target 150 persons in Region 9
- \$1 billion was spent in 2013 to advance works on the athletic track at Leonora and the warm-up pool at the National Aquatic Centre
- Over \$960 million has been allocated to the sector
- \$344 million is expected to be spent on continuing works at the Leonora athletic track and the warm-up pool at the National Aquatic Centre
- \$300 million is expected to be spent on the grounds enhancement initiative

Single Parents 2013

- 447 persons graduated under the BIT's Single Parents Training Programme
- 174 single parents, benefited from training programmes under Guyana Women's Leadership Institute (GWLII)

2014

- In excess of \$200 million has been budgeted for the relocation of the power plant in Lethem and the upgrading of power supply in Culvert City, Mahdia and Linden.
- GPL's largest customer, Guyana Water Inc., will be investing approximately \$338 million in an effort to improve operational efficiency through more efficient electromechanical and energy management.

E. Investment in People

a. Education 2013

- \$28.5 billion was expended in this sector in 2013.
- \$50 million Harold B Davis Special School for differently-abled children was commissioned in January this year.
- 16 secondary computer labs were completed as part of our efforts to ensure all secondary schools have access to IT.
- \$35.2 million was expended towards the commencement of the University of Guyana Science and Technology Support initiative, while \$50 million was made available to ensure greater access to tertiary level education via online programmes.
- Over \$1 billion was expended on the National School Feeding Programme.
- \$208 million was spent on the National Uniform Programme, benefitting over 139,000 children.

2014

- \$32.3 billion has been allocated towards the implementation of the first year of our new Education Strategic Plan.
- \$2.9 billion towards the construction, rehabilitation, extension and maintenance of our educational facilities including a new and expanded Zeeburg Secondary School and the Kato Secondary complex
- US\$10 million Universal Secondary Education initiative will commence.
- \$1.4 billion towards the operation of both campuses of the University of Guyana, inclusive of \$450 million for our student loan programme
- Later this year our students will have the option of online degree programmes for the first time ever
- through the University of Guyana Science and Technology Support initiative 14 science and technology buildings will be rehabilitated and equipped.

b. Health 2013

- The sector expended in excess of \$17.7 billion in 2013
- \$1.2 billion was expended on construction and upgrade of health infrastructure countrywide

- \$257.8 million was spent on medical equipment
- the human capital of the health sector was strengthened by the return of 278 Cuban trained doctors
- 44 government medical officers benefited from post graduate training
- over \$364 million was expended on health training
- over 78,000 long lasting insecticide treated bed nets were distributed to mining communities which contributed to a reduction of over a 1,000 malaria cases nationally

2014

- \$21.5 billion has been allocated towards the sector
- \$2.4 billion is budgeted for construction and upgrade of health care facilities countrywide including the Port Kaituma District Hospital, Linden Hospital Complex, Kwakwani Hospital
- \$910 million is allocated for the specialty hospital
- \$382.7 million is allocated for the purchase of medical equipment
- \$117 million is allocated for the purchase of 12 ambulances which represents a 40 percent increase in the national fleet
- \$428 million has been allocated to train 20 additional post graduate residents and upgrade over 4000 providers
- \$50 million is allocated to commence the extension of the maternity facility at the Georgetown Public Hospital to ensure increased bed capacity
- \$22.6 million is allocated for the establishment of maternity waiting homes in Lethem and Bartica to cater for antenatal high-risk mothers.
- A national commission is soon-to-be established to oversee the accelerated implementation of the national plans for prevention and control of NCDs and \$50 million has been allocated to launch a public education and outreach programme.

c. Housing 2013

- \$3.2 billion was spent in this sector
- Eight One-Stop-Shop outreaches were conducted
- 4,417 lots were allocated and 5,326 titles processed
- Several new housing schemes were developed or consolidated with existing ones benefitting over 30,000 persons
- Through the turnkey housing initiative, more than 90 single flat concrete houses were constructed
- under the Young Professional Housing Programme 55 homes were completed surpassing the 48 homes targeted
- Under the Core House Pilot, 127 core houses were completed, enabling an additional 580 persons to benefit
- 153 subsidies were disbursed under the coastal home improvement programme

valued at \$30.6 million

- 130 hinterland home improvement subsidies valued at \$107.2 million

2014

- Government has allocated \$4.4 billion to the housing sector
- 5,900 house lots will be allocated and 4,100 land titles will be process and distributed to new landowners
- Housing scheme development will continue at Eccles, Diamond, Anna Catherina, Uityvlugt, Bath, and No. 77 Village, among others
- Through the continuation of the public-private turnkey initiative, another 100 houses will be constructed.
- An additional 50 police officers, nurses and teachers will be allocated land to construct their homes
- the completion and distribution of another 176 core houses
- disbursement of 134 coastal home improvement subsidies valued at \$26.8 million
- an additional disbursement of 54 hinterland subsidies valued \$54 million

d. Water

2013

- \$2.4 billion was expended in this sector.
- \$649.1 million was spent to begin construction of two new water treatment plants, the installation of over 30 kilometres of transmission and distribution mains, and the upgrade of 1,500 service connections benefiting residents of Linden
- \$160 million was spent on the Hinterland Water Supply Programme which benefitting over 15,000 persons.

2014

- Over \$2.5 billion is allocated to the sector
- Two water treatment plants at Wisroc and Amelia's Ward will be completed, benefitting more than 30,000 residents in Region 10
- Water supply improvement works will be done in hinterland communities in areas such as Waikerabi, Santa Rosa, Arau, Taruka, Kanapang, Kathur, Aishalton and St. Ignatius, benefitting approximately 20,000 residents.

e. Sanitation

2013

- a sum of \$546.5 million was expended towards the continued rehabilitation of the Georgetown sewer system, along with the rehabilitation of 24 pumping stations.

2014

- The sum of \$544.6 million is budgeted for the completion of the sewer system in Central Georgetown, the sewer outfall in Georgetown and the sewerage pumping station at Tucville.
- over \$2.5 billion is allocated to the sector