

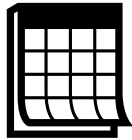
VOLUME 31
MARCH 2025



MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 826

NEWSLETTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Georgetown
Chamber of Commerce & Industry



MARCH IN REVIEW



UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW
MEMBERS



IN THIS ISSUE

» GCCCI ELECTS NEW COUNCIL AND EMC

» GCCCI ENGAGES IN WALKABOUT TO MEET
BUSINESSES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

Firstly, I wish to thank the membership of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry for my election to the Council of the Chamber. I also wish to thank my fellow Councillors for their confidence in me for electing me President of the Chamber. It is indeed a privilege for me to be given this opportunity.

As I begin my tenure, I remain committed to leading the GCCCI in the execution of its mandate, and doing so with diligence and passion. As time progresses, I will fully outline more on my vision and strategy for the GCCCI under my leadership. I wish to remind our members that the GCCCI is not just a Chamber for one segment of businesses—the GCCCI is a Chamber that represents the entire business community. The GCCCI operates from a place of merit and I am keen on ensuring we continue the advocacy for enterprise development and opportunities for all Guyanese businesses.

I encourage you all to fully integrate yourselves into the various committees, and to also share your challenges and concerns with us so that we may address them within the Advocacy and Economic Affairs Committee that I chair.

**Warm regards,
Mrs. Kathy Smith
President**

WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In March 2025, the Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry approved the applications of its newest cohort of members. We would like to take the opportunity to extend our warmest welcome to:

- Central Electronics
- Guyana National Newspapers Limited
- MediServ Biomedical Services and Supplies
- RigPro Staffing & Training
- Synergy 360 (GUY) Inc.
- Capital Detailing & Cleaning Services Inc.
- P.Ramroop & Sons
- Juanelle's Apartments & Auto Rental
- Lead to Influence
- Nijiro Inc.
- S King Construction and General Supplies
- Sven Media
- JR's Construction and Logistics
- M&S Brokerage Services
- Aligned Solutions
- M&K Construction Company and Equipment Rental
- The Dental Professionals

EVENTS

135th Annual General Meeting held -GCCCI elects new Council and EMC



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) elected its first woman President following its 135th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Mrs. Kathy Smith was elected to the post of President of the Chamber during the first statutory meeting of the GCCCI on March 21, during which the election for the Executive Management Committee was held. This election followed the elections for the Chamber's 21-member Council for the year 2025/2026 which was held during the AGM on March 19, 2025.

The Executive Management Committee also includes Senior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar; Junior Vice President, Mr. Brian Edwards; Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George, and Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott. The Council also invited Councillors, Immediate Past President Mr. Kester Hutson, Past President Mr. Timothy Tucker, and Past Senior Vice President Mr. Richard Rambarran to serve on the Executive Management Committee as Ex-Officio Members.

Together with the members of the EMC, the Council comprises Ms. Dee George of Herdmanston Lodge; Mr. Delmar Walcott of Pinnacle Solutions; Mr. Devon Seeram of Payless Variety Store; Mrs. Evie Kanhai-Gurchuran of Envisage Marketing and Technology Company; Mr. Eusi Evelyn of Green State Oil & Gas Services Inc.; Mr. Keon Howard of Electric (Guyana) Inc.; Mr. Komal Ramnauth of Kojac; Ms. Mary Nagasar of Hand-in-Hand Group of Companies; Mr. Navin Prashad of M.P Insurance Brokers and Consultants Ltd.; Mr. Orson Ferguson of Vista Holdings Inc.; Mr. Paul Archer of Loss Control and Risk Management Guyana; Mr. Rayad Boyce of Sonic Business Services, and Mr. Rosh Khan of Social Rank Media.

GCCI onboards new members at President's Reception



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on Friday, March 7, welcomed new members onboard at the quarterly President's Reception. The event was held in the GCCI's boardroom and saw new members for the period December 2024-February 2025 meeting Councillors and Executive Members of the GCCI.

The reception provided the opportunity for the 23 new members for that period to meet and network, while gaining insights into the Chamber's operations and benefits from President of the Chamber, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith, and Councillor and Chairperson of the Membership and Diversity Committee, Mrs Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott.

Energy Insights: GCCI engages GPL on current operations and improvements to grid



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) Petroleum Committee, cognisant of the importance of the energy sector to Guyana's development, on March 13 engaged the Chief Executive Officer of the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Incorporated, Mr. Kesh Nandlall. Mr. Nandlall made a presentation to members of the GCCI in the Chamber's boardroom and updated attendees on the company's plan to provide stable electricity supply, major achievements in customer service, as well as an overview of the progress made on the Gas-to-Energy project.

The then Senior Vice President and Chairperson of the Petroleum Committee, Mrs. Kathy Smith noted that members of the GCCI are eagerly anticipating improvements to the energy sector that will accompany the operationalisation of the Gas-to-Energy Project as the electricity demand is continuously increasing. "It is a good thing for Guyanese, especially our private sector because it means that we are doing new business in Guyana and we are able to sustain ourselves," she stated.

Then President of the Chamber, Mr. Kester Hutson stated that these engagements are important, especially in keeping members informed so that "they can better position themselves as business leaders in this growing economy." Meanwhile, Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran spoke to the benefits of these collaborations in addressing the challenges that members face. "We look forward to continuing a very fruitful working relationship as we move forward," he stated.

Council Walkabout: GCCI meets with Water Street businesses to discuss collaboration and support



As the 2025/2026 Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) begins to execute the Chamber's mandate, one of the items on the agenda is continuing collaborations and supporting the business community.

On Thursday, March 27, the Council engaged in a walkabout with businesses in Water Street, Georgetown. Led by President, Mrs. Kathy Smith, the Junior Vice President, Mr. Brian Edwards; Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George, Councillor, and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran, and Councillors Mr. Orson Ferguson, Mr. Keon Howard, Mr. Paul Archer, Mr. Navin Prashad, Mr. Delmar Walcott, Mr. Eusi Evelyn, Mr. Devon Seeram, Mr. Evie Kanhai-Gurchuran, and Mr. Rayad Boyce visited several businesses and engaged them on issues that are affecting their operations and how the GCCI can support in resolving their challenges.

Among the businesses visited were Palm Court, German's Restaurant, Nation's Incorporated, BK Group of Companies, Mattai's Supermarket, and National Hardware Guyana Incorporated. This activity will continue in the coming weeks and is anticipated to be conducted with establishments outside of Georgetown as well.

MEETINGS

GCCI engages AFC on elections and economic development strategy



As the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) prepares for the upcoming General and Regional Elections, the Chamber has commenced engaging the contesting political parties to ascertain their economic development strategies for the country and discuss matters related to polling day.

On March 5, the then President of the Chamber, Mr. Kester Hutson; Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Treasurer, Mr. Brian Edwards; Councillors and Executive Members, Mr. Timothy Tucker and Mr. Richard Rambarran, as well as Councillors Mr. Delmar Walcott, Mr. Paul Archer and Mr. Keon Howard met with the Executive Members of the Alliance For Change (AFC) in the Chamber's boardroom.

Leader of the AFC, Mr. Nigel Hughes; Chairman, Mr. David Patterson; Former leader, Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, and Executive Members, Mrs. Catherine Hughes and Ms. Juretha Fernandes attended the meeting. The engagement saw discussions on the party's economic plan for the country, including its strategy for the growth of the non-oil sector and its focus on the economic empowerment of women.

Election day conduct and the electoral process were also discussed, and the Chamber took the opportunity to express its concerns regarding its experience in 2020, where the compilation of the Statement of Poll saw human interference. The party officials also expressed their concerns related to the election exercise and the Chamber committed to continued engagement on this subject.

GCCI engages with CNOOC's Supply Chain Team



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) continues to engage stakeholders of Guyana's oil and gas industry to advocate for local content utilisation.

On March 6, the then President of the GCCI, Mr. Kester Huston, and Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith—who also chairs the Petroleum Committee, met with CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited Supply Chain Lead, Mr. Ben Cai and Contract Analysis, Ms. Danita Cato.

The introductory meeting was held in the Chamber's boardroom and saw the GCCI officials sharing information on members' capabilities to support the oil and gas sector.

GCCI meets KLM Airlines



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on March 6 met with officials from KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. The airline was established in October 1919, making it the world's oldest airline still operating under its original name. It encompasses a network of 92 European cities and 70 intercontinental destinations.

Regional Manager, Mr. Dirk Buitellar; Sales Manager, Mr. Danilo DeFreitas, and Country Sales Manager for Suriname and Guyana, Ms. Nalini Kanhai visited the GCCI and met with the Chamber's Senior Vice President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Treasurer and Councillor, Mr. Brian Edwards, and Councillor, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott.

The company is seeking to establish its local presence and met with the Chamber to better understand Guyana's business landscape.

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GCCI Executives meet with Minister Deodat Indar



With crucial discussions on matters such as ensuring that local companies fully tap into contract opportunities that accompany the burgeoning infrastructure development and issues related to local content utilisation, the new Executive Management Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on March 31 met with Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Hon. Deodat Indar, who is also a Past President of the Chamber.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Junior Vice President, Mr. Brian Edwards; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott; and Councillors and Executive Members, Mr. Timothy Tucker and Mr. Richard Rambarran paid the minister a courtesy visit at his Wight's Lane, Kingston office.

President Smith provided an overview of concerns of the Chamber's membership to the Minister, particularly as it relates to local content utilisation within the infrastructure sector. Minister Indar, who provided insights into the more than 3000 contracts issues to local contractors last year, committed to addressing the issues raised.

Matters such as labour needs and capacity-building within the workforce were also discussed.

STATEMENT



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mr. Kester Hutson

March 1, 2025

PRESS STATEMENT *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Condemning Venezuela's Incursion of Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) strongly condemns the incursion of Guyana's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by a Venezuelan naval vessel. This threat to our country's sovereign territory must be rejected and such acts of aggression must not be allowed to continue with impunity.

The Chamber urges all nations and international organisations to reject these threats to the region's security and stability. Venezuela's rejection of this long-established international boundary—which was determined by the 1899 Arbitral Award—is currently before the International Court of Justice. This continuous escalation of aggressions and threats by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela only serves to destroy the peace enjoyed in the region.

The GCCCI will support the Government of Guyana in any measures taken to protect the country's sovereign territory. It is also imperative that citizens maintain unity in condemning these actions and reject narratives that aim to usurp our territorial integrity. The Essequibo region belongs to Guyana, and the Chamber affirms that it is Guyana's right to occupy its 83,000 square miles and EEZ.

END

GREETINGS



GREETINGS



GCCI's Calendar of Events 2025



MAR
19

**135TH ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

MAY
5-8

**OFFSHORE
TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE**

JUN
18

**BUSINESS
BREAKFAST
SEMINAR**

JUL
7

**CARICOM DAY
BARBECUE**

JUL
18-27

**NATIONAL
SMALL
BUSINESS
WEEK**

SEP
24

**ENERGY LUNCHEON
& LAUNCH OF THE
BUSINESS GUYANA
MAGAZINE**

OCT
23

**NADENE GILBERT-
RAMBARRAN
CANCER
AWARENESS &
FUNDRAISING
MIXER**

NOV
18-19

**BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
FORUM**

DEC
11

**136TH ANNUAL
AWARDS
PRESENTATION
& GALA DINNER**

DATES ARE TENTATIVE & SUBJECT TO CHANGE