

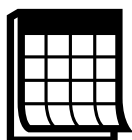
VOLUME 32
APRIL 2025



MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 830

NEWSLETTER

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



APRIL IN REVIEW



UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW
MEMBERS



IN THIS ISSUE

- » COUNCIL MEETS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER
- » GCCCI MEETS WITH MINISTERS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY
- » GCCCI HOSTS SESSION WITH EXXONMOBIL GUYANA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) continued to execute its mandate in April 2025, with keen focus on its advocacy workplan in particular. The GCCI met with a number of ministers and members of the diplomatic community--with discussions on crucial matters including local content utilisation and development, and the advancement of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

The Council also continued its efforts in meeting and engaging with members of the Chamber during our Council Walkabout--an activity that is expected to continue in coming weeks. The GCCI's activities for the month also included the Agriculture symposium and the presentation by ExxonMobil Guyana--with these initiatives seeking to build the capacity of businesses, not only within the oil and gas industry but across sectors.

I encourage you to read this issue of our newsletter to better understand our activities and their objectives, and consider how you can benefit from the many engagements being organised by the GCCI through active participation.

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

WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In April 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:

- Auto Climate Solutions
- Caribbean HR Solutions
- Strategy and Development Consulting Inc.
- Beharry Homes Inc.
- GSA FOODS
- KRITI

EVENTS

Farmer-to-Business Symposium 2025



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 2 held a ‘Farmer-to-Business Symposium’ at the Splashmin’s Conference Room that saw over 90 participants—including farmers, and representatives of restaurants, supermarkets, and other businesses within the agriculture supply chain—benefiting from direct engagement between producers and buyers.

The event was organised by the GCCI’s Agriculture Committee in collaboration with World University Services of Canada (WUSC) with funding from Global Affairs Canada, and hosted under the theme “Opportunities in Agriculture through Innovation and Collaboration.” The goal of the event is the development of a sustainable and robust agriculture market system that promotes food security, boosts productivity, and drives economic prosperity for farmers by enhancing competitiveness, sustainability, and inclusivity through commercialisation and modernisation.

The event also sought to provide a platform for farmers to share their challenges and issues related to access to agricultural innovations, inputs, finance, and government support, and equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to adapt to a changing agricultural landscape and thrive in the market. Among the activities at the symposium was a ‘speed dating for stakeholders’ session, which saw farmer and businesses interacting in order to develop a supply chain connection.

This symposium also brought together stakeholders from key agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Agriculture Research Extension Institute (NAREI), the New Guyana Marketing Corporation, the Guyana Food Safety Authority, the Small Business Bureau, the Food and Drug Administration, the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana, the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board and Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry.

GCCI Council walkabout



The President and Councillors of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 10 continued a walkabout in Georgetown to meet with members of the business community to better understand the support that they need and areas of collaboration.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Senior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar; Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott; Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran, and Councillor and Chairperson of the Trade and Investment Committee, Mr. Eusi Evelyn visited businesses in North Cummingsburg, Georgetown. The businesses included Hallmark, Kings Jewelry, John Lewis Styles, Vivaanta Ayurvedic Spa, Reaz Computer Centre and Gizmos and Gadgets.

The interactions saw fruitful discussions on challenges being experienced by these businesses and recommendations on the type of support they need in areas such as human resources as well as improvement in their business environs that would lead to increased opportunities to meet their customers' needs.

This initiative will continue in the coming weeks as the Chamber seeks to support the development and advancement of the business community.

GCCI hosts session with ExxonMobil Guyana



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI), through its Petroleum Committee, hosted an engagement session with ExxonMobil Guyana (EMGL), providing Chamber members with the opportunity to learn more about the company's operations and future plans within the energy sector.

"As Guyana's energy sector grows, the role of local businesses becomes even more important," said Kathy Smith, President of the GCCI. "We're focused on ensuring the right environment for our members to succeed."

Alistair Routledge, President of ExxonMobil Guyana, shared key insights into the company's operations, upcoming gas development projects, and the many opportunities available for local businesses to participate. He also highlighted EMGL's commitment to improving operational efficiency and increasing local workforce participation, underscoring the importance of strong partnerships with the business community.

Chairman of the Petroleum Committee, Richard Rambarran, noted that this session forms part of the continued build-out of the Chamber's efforts to consistently engage its membership. "You'll find us continuing to do the same thing in the near future as we expand our focus across various sectors and sub-sectors," he stated.

The GCCI will continue to bridge the gap between the private sector and major industry players, helping local businesses to leverage emerging opportunities in Guyana's rapidly developing energy landscape.

Guyana Agri Connect



With support from Global Affairs Canada, the GCCI and WUSC Caribbean recently hosted a dynamic Partnership Engagement Session, bringing together key players from the public and private sectors and NGOs—including National Agricultural Research and Extension institute, New GMC, The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, Guyana Livestock Development Authority, Government Analyst Food and Drug Department, Small Business Bureau, Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry, Institute of Private Enterprise Development, Farfan & Mendes, Green Agro Services & Supplies Inc. and Tourism & Hospitality Association of Guyana.

Over the past three years, many of these partners have been working directly with farming communities across Guyana. Now, under the banner of Guyana Agri Connect, they're joining forces to formalize partnerships and scale up impact through a shared Partnership Framework.

The mission? Support farmers—especially women and youth—with real, practical solutions to increase productivity, income, and market access. From training in good agricultural practices to entrepreneurship, finance, leadership, and extension services, this collaboration is delivering results.

- ✓ Better yields
- ✓ Increased incomes
- ✓ Stronger networks
- ✓ Easier access to markets & finance

This is what "Growing Together, Gaining Together" looks like. And we're just getting started!

MEETINGS

GCCI meets with Minister of Natural Resources



With focus on important issues and concerns surrounding the development of local companies—including Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises—including the establishment of a financial institution catering to their needs, as well as increasing local content utilisation, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 2 met with Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Vickram Bharrat.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott; and Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George made a courtesy visit to the minister at his Duke Street, Georgetown office. Mrs. Smith provided the minister with an overview of the recently held Annual General Meeting of the Chamber, and the newly elected Executive Management Committee and Council.

In her discussions with Minister Bharrat, Mrs. Smith pointed out that the GCCI's membership has significantly increased over the last several years with many members being able to tap into the oil and gas industry. On this note, she indicated the GCCI's keen interest in the updating of the Local Content Schedule, adding that the Chamber is desirous of making further input—particularly in increasing the percentage of contracts carved out for local companies. Minister Bharrat assured the Chamber that the proposed updates will be shared for further consultation.

Additionally, the GCCI President engaged the minister on concerns related to fronting and unethical practices by foreign businesses that partner with Guyanese companies, such as 'double-dipping'—issues which she stated requires penalisation. In terms of capacity building, Mrs. Smith provided insights into the Micro and Women Entrepreneur Learning Centre that is under development at the GCCI, and how it will positively impact MSMEs by providing a platform for their advancement, while advocating for concessions for Guyanese businesses.

Minister Bharrat shared that, aligned with the objectives of the GCCI, the government is examining mechanisms to develop MSMEs, one of which is the facilitation of financing with lower interest rates and easier accessibility. The Minister, in committing to continuing the collaborative relationship with the Chamber, indicated that a team from the Ministry would further engage the GCCI on further improving the local content legislation.

GCCI and International IDEA discuss electoral integrity



The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)—an intergovernmental organisation that supports democracy worldwide through supporting the building, strengthening and safeguarding of democratic political institutions and processes at all levels—met with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 2 to discuss plans for elections awareness and voter education with the broader objective of supporting electoral integrity as Guyana approaches the 2025 General and Regional Elections.

Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships Advisor, Mr. Luis Jose Consuegra; Programme Manager, Mr. Marcelo Varela, and Programme Assistant, Mr. Junior Chanderpaul met with President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy Smith and Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott. Discussions revolved around International IDEA’s plans for engaging in voter education, a project which is being funded by the European Union’s Delegation to Guyana. The International IDEA team provided an outline of its scope which includes civil society capacity building, voter education and tackling misinformation. It was also indicated that they will be collaborating with the Guyana Elections Commission to gather official information via the Commission’s manuals and handbooks.

President Smith, during the discussions, noted that the GCCI has over the years been an active Election Observer, with members travelling across the country on election day in fulfilment of this role. She emphasised the Chamber’s position on the need for a democratic process that respects the rule of law. “We want to ensure our election this year is free, fair and transparent. We don’t want what happened in 2020 to happen again as it will stymie and impede business,” she firmly stated, later adding, “Business must continue, and it must continue smoothly.”

She shared that the GCCI is in the process of meeting with political parties to discuss their economic strategies for Guyana and their plans for elections, noting that a similar engagement is being sought with GECOM.

GCCI Councillors meet with Ministry of Home Affairs



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 2 engaged Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Robeson Benn on crucial matters of national importance, including reducing the number of accidents on the roadways, road safety awareness initiatives, fire safety, traffic management and the availability of parking in the city, and the upcoming General and Regional Elections.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott; Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George; Councillor and Chairperson of the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Committee, Mr. Orson Ferguson, and Councillor and Chairperson of the Governance and Security Committee, Mr. Paul Archer paid the minister a courtesy visit at his Brickdam, Georgetown office during these discussions were held.

The GCCI Councillors also commenced talks on collaborating with the ministry to host awareness sessions with its membership on the country's immigration laws and the ministry's immigration services.

GCCI and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs discuss collaboration on anti-corruption initiatives, elections and increasing stakeholder consultations



President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott; Councillor and Executive Member, Mr Richard Rambarran, and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Hon. Gail Teixeira on April 2 discussed a wide range of issues including collaborating for increased government stakeholder consultation with the GCCI and increasing education on anti-corruption practices and measures within the private sector, as well as preparations for the upcoming General and Regional Elections.

The GCCI Executives paid a courtesy visit to the Minister at her office during which they engaged her on these areas. Minister Teixeira noted that as the lead coordinating body for reports required as part of Guyana's Treaty Reporting commitment which includes anti-corruption framework, particularly the Inter-American Convention against corruption, one of the focus areas is the inclusion of the private sector in anti-corruption practices and measures. As such, she was pleased with the Chamber's expression of interest in increasing collaboration. Mr. Rambarran noted that the GCCI's Code of Conduct, that speaks to anti-corruption and dissuading corrupt practices, allows for removal of members for violations. He stated that the Chamber is interested in integrating these anti-corruption frameworks being implemented by the Ministry into this Code of Conduct.

Of importance, too, were discussions surrounding the flouting of Local Content laws via loopholes by foreign companies operating in Guyana's oil and gas industry. President Smith stated, "Some of the large companies are creating multiple companies to access the opportunities that are there for smaller businesses. In some cases, too, the local partners are only partners on paper—they are not getting the benefits that they ought to." As such, she raised this issue with the minister as it is one of the matters the Chamber is seeking to address frontally. Talks also delved into the upcoming General and Regional Elections and preparations for polling day.

GCCI officials meet with Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 3 engaged Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Hon. Oneidge Walrond-Allicock on several issues including the recently imposed tariffs, access to finance, elections and increasing collaboration, among other issues.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott; Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George; and Councillor and Chairperson of the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Committee, Mr. Orson Ferguson paid the minister a courtesy call at her office.

President Smith took the opportunity to raise concerns related to the need for digitalisation of services provided by the public sector, noting that the paper-based system and bureaucratic systems can frustrate business. On the issue of access to finance, the Minister—in response to the President’s advocacy for increased access to capital for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises—stated that mechanisms to address these are being examined and requested data from the Chamber to support this process.

Other matters included Non-Tariff Barriers and General and Regional Elections.

GCCI pays courtesy call on British High Commissioner



As the Executive Members and Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) continue with its courtesy visits to various government officials and the diplomatic community, President of the Chamber, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott, and Executive Member and Councillor, Mr. Richard Rambarran met with British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Jane Miller OBE.

On April 4, the GCCI officials met with H.E Miller, alongside her team that included Country Director for Trade and Investment, Department for Business and Trade, British High Commission, Guyana and Suriname, Mr. Sherwyn Naughton; Country Trade and Investment Officer at British High Commission, Mrs. Kimberly Singh-Hanoman, and Trade and Investment Assistant, Mrs. Faith Trim-Browne.

The two parties discussed a number of important matters including local content development and utilisation, increasing bilateral trade as well as inbound and outbound trade missions, Guyana's Human Resource needs, continuing collaborations, and skills development for both the labour force and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

GCCI participates in Caribbean Ministers of Labour Conference



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 7 attended the 13th International Labour Organization (ILO) Caribbean Ministers of Labour Conference at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith and Treasurer, Mrs. Melisa McRae-George attended the conference that focused on key topics such as the ratification and implementation of International Labour Standards and Labour Laws in the Caribbean, social protection, skills development, lifelong learning, and occupational safety and health.

These focal points are aligned with the GCCI's work plan as it relates to workforce development, capacity building, and addressing labour shortages.

GCCI Executives meet with Minister of Finance



Members of the Executive Management Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 8 met with Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Senior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar; Junior Vice President, Mr. Brian Edwards; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan, and Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran met with the Minister at his office.

Among the issues discussed were access to finance for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, the ease-of-doing-business, matters related to taxation and the agriculture sector.

Minister Singh stated that as a committed partner and friend to the private sector, he looks forward to close collaborations with the Chamber in keeping with the positive relationship that the two parties have developed over the years.

GCCI Executives meet with Minister of Human Services and Social Security



With a wide range of potential collaborations discussed, a team from the Executive Management Committee of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on April 8 met with Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Persaud.

President, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Senior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, and Junior Vice President, Mr. Brian Edwards engaged Minister Persaud at her Lamaha Street, Georgetown office on a number of potential collaborations geared towards improving employees' wellbeing and skills development.

The Minister provided an overview of the initiatives being undertaken by her ministry, including childcare centres for working parents, skills development training, and women empowerment projects.

The Executives identified several areas for close collaboration and agreed to work closely with the ministry to finetune these partnership opportunities.

GCCI Executives meet with Minister of Agriculture



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) has been dedicatedly supporting the development of the agriculture sector through capacity-building outreaches and collaboration with the various state agencies in the sector.

On April 9, President of the Chamber, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Senior Vice President, Mr. Gavin Ramsoondar, and Junior Vice President and Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee, Mr. Brian Edwards met with Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha to discuss areas for continued collaboration to further advance the sector.

Mrs. Smith provided the minister with an overview of the Chamber's work, the recent elections, and the work of the various committees. The Executive Members also provided insights into a recent collaboration between the GCCI and the World University Services of Canada and several state agencies to host a Farmer-to-Business Symposium.

The Chamber expressed its commitment to supporting the development of the agriculture sector to aid the goal of Guyana being the breadbasket of the region. The Minister shared progress reports on several projects being undertaken by the ministry, including the rearing of prawns locally.

GCCI Executives engage EU Ambassador



A delegation of Executive Members from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) paid a courtesy call on Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Guyana, His Excellency, René Van Nes on April 9 at his office.

President of the Chamber, Mrs. Kathy Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott, and Councillor and Executive Member, Mr. Richard Rambarran had a fruitful engagement with the Ambassador on a wide range of topics including the Chamber's increasing support for the agriculture sector, how access to the Schengen visa can improve business potential for local companies, preparations and support for the 2025 General and Regional Elections, encouraging value-added production, and more.

Discussions also delved into Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU that Guyanese businesses can benefit from, which make provisions for duty-free, quota-free export into the EU for Guyanese companies.

GCCI meets with Indian High Commissioner to strengthen Bilateral Business Relations



Executive Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI) met with the Indian High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang, to explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration between Guyana and India, with a focus on fostering business growth and knowledge exchange.

President of the GCCI, Kathy Smith, led the delegation comprised of Senior Vice President Gavin Ramsoondar and Junior Vice President Brian Edwards. The meeting covered a range of strategic areas, including the advancement of technology and innovation, strengthening agricultural ties, expanding training and educational initiatives, and facilitating trade missions between the two nations.

GCCI engages with Embassy of the People's Republic of China



The GCCI delegation comprised of Kathy Smith - President, Brian Edwards - Junior Vice President, and Delmar Walcott - Councillor, paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and engaged with Mr. Li Hanqing, Economic and Commercial Counselor, to explore opportunities for expanding business collaboration and driving economic growth through strategic partnerships.

The discussions also focused on enhancing agricultural practices, exchanging knowledge and technologies, and identifying new opportunities to support local farmers and strengthen agricultural ties between the two nations

GCCI pays courtesy visit to U.S Ambassador



Executive Members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) paid a courtesy visit to Her Excellency Nicole Theriot, Ambassador of the United States of America to Guyana, to explore areas of mutual collaboration across key sectors.

Discussions included local content and developments within the energy sector for local business participation.

The meeting further explored opportunities in agriculture-focused enterprise development and technical training. Additional dialogue focused on import and export facilitation, the development of crop insurance mechanisms, and advancing human capital development through workforce training, innovation, and targeted capacity-building initiatives.

In attendance were GCCI President Kathy Smith, Senior Vice President Gavin Ramsoondar, Junior Vice President Brian Edwards, Treasurer Melisa McRae George, Secretary Kristia Ramlagan-Prescott, and Executive Member Richard Rambarran.

APRIL 2025: MEMBER OF THE MONTH MORGAN'S INVESTMENT INC.



Morgan's Investment Incorporated is a locally owned and operated metal welding, fabrication, rental service, construction and contractor company that was established in 2009.

This family-owned, medium size company was founded by Mr. Dwight Morgan and Mrs. Lelawati Morgan, and continues to provide services to large companies in Guyana.

In January 2024, the company inaugurated its headquarters at 1804 Aubrey Barker Road, Georgetown, and in October 2024, it also announced the achievement of both ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) and ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety) certifications. This milestone solidifies the company's commitment to delivering high-quality products and superior service at a competitive price, while safeguarding employee well-being and fostering growth across Guyana's industrial landscape. Morgan's is also leading the way in Renewable Energy in its industry with the use of cutting-edge 28KWp Photovoltaic System at its commercial office.

Founder, Mr. Dwight Morgan began working as a welder/fabricator at the age of 17 after completing a diploma in plumbing at the Government Technical Institute. He spent years perfecting his trade, and in 2009 formulated the business which grew over the years and later became incorporated in 2021. Mrs. Lelawati Morgan, who is also the principal at a private daycare that she owns, also supports the Operations Administration of the business. She also supported in the groundwork during the start-up of the business.

STATEMENT



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mrs. Kathy Smith

April 29, 2025

STATEMENT *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry *calling for*

Public peace and stability

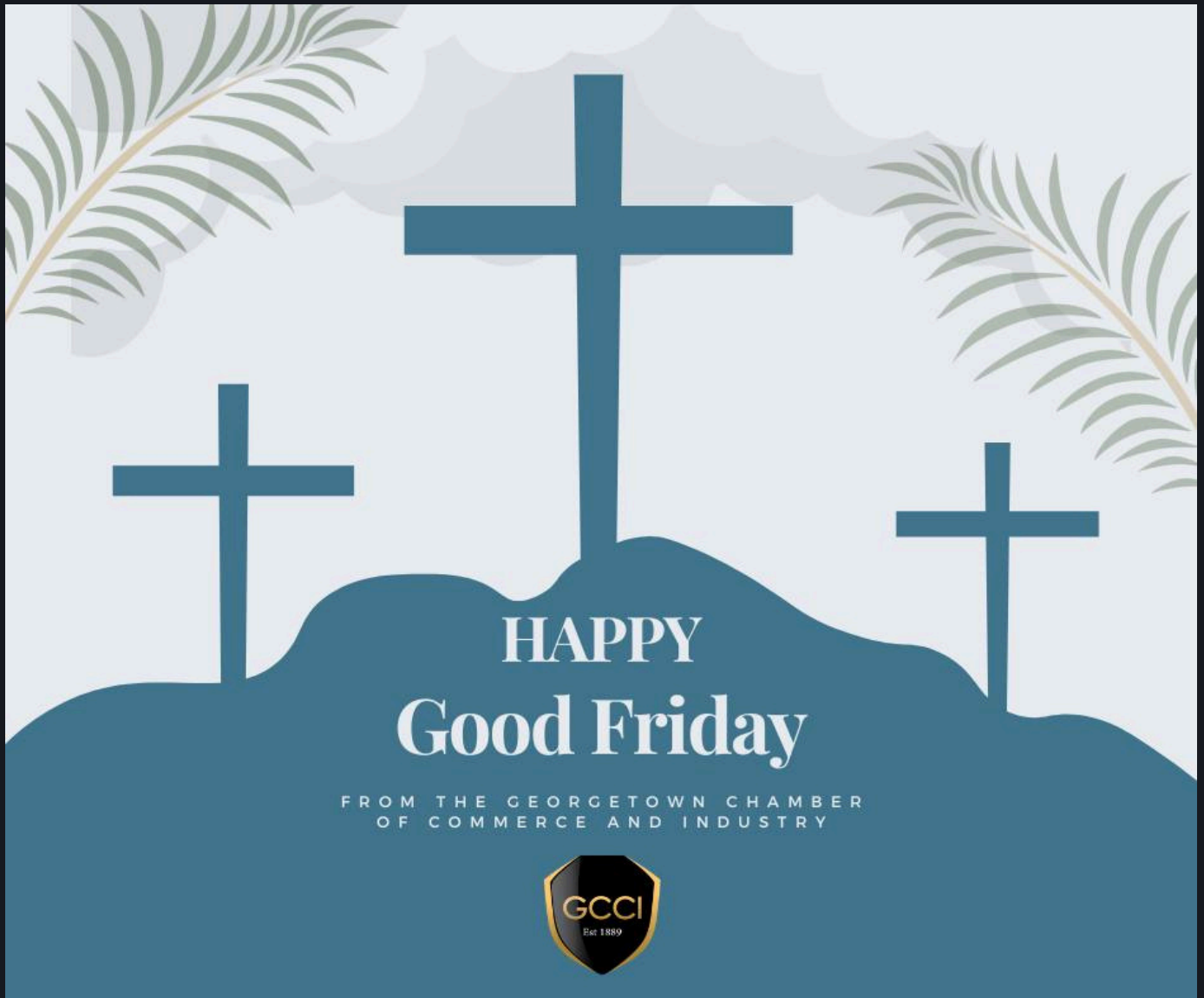
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The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has noted with deep concern the incidents that occurred within the last 24 hours. The Chamber is calling on citizens to allow peace and stability to prevail. Criminal elements have hijacked and preyed upon frustrations over recent incidents, and the acts of violence, looting and destruction witnessed on Monday and the wee hours of Tuesday morning only serve to create unrest and create divides among our people.

The Chamber remains concerned about the continued perpetuation of violence in our society and public safety remains paramount. The GCCCI is calling on authorities to enforce the implemented measures to temper unrest and be proactive in quelling any efforts aimed at furthering instability.

END

GREETINGS



GREETINGS



*Happy
Easter Day*



From the Georgetown Chamber of
Commerce and Industry



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592 227-6441; 592 226-3519

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