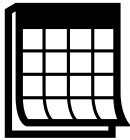


VOLUME 36
AUGUST 2025



NEWSLETTER

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



AUGUST IN REVIEW



UPCOMING
EVENTS



NEW
MEMBERS



IN THIS ISSUE

- » GCCCI MEETS WITH ELECTIONS OBSERVER MISSIONS AHEAD OF GRE 2025
- » NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK 2025 RECAP
- » PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION HELD TO ORIENT NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO THE GCCI

In August 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:

Zoon Inc.
UB Precision Eng
ALVOX Solutions

EVENTS

President's Reception



On August 8, the Chamber hosted the President's Reception at the GCCI Boardroom, where we welcomed our new members who joined between April and July 2025. The event was attended by President Kathy S. Smith, Senior Vice President Gavin Ramsoondar, Treasurer Melisa McRae-George, Councillors Paul Archer and Dee George, along with Councillor and Chair of the Membership and Diversity Committee Keon Howard.

President Smith encouraged the new members, saying "As members of the Chamber, take full advantage of the opportunities presented to you. Stay active, continue to show up, and engage with the Chamber as you've done today. Together, we can make a real difference."

Keon Howard, Chair of the Membership and Diversity Committee, added "The Chamber is home to entrepreneurs at every stage of the business landscape in Guyana. Don't just join and sit back. Take the time to invest in your membership, invest in yourself, and ultimately, invest in the development of our country."

The new members introduced themselves, followed by a brief networking session. We look forward to working with our new members and supporting each other as we grow.

Recap: National Small Business Week



In the week of August 4-9, the GCCI hosted a series of training workshops as part of National Small Business Week 2025. Our goal was to provide small businesses with the tools and knowledge they need to grow and thrive in today's dynamic market.

Here's a look at the impactful sessions we held:

Aug 4, 2025: Small Business Management & Awareness

This session focused on the core skills needed to effectively manage and scale a small business.

Aug 5, 2025: Envision Equity Workshop: The Small Business Bureau (SBB) Loan Facility Program

Another great session where entrepreneurs gained insights on accessing financing through the SBB Loan Facility to drive business growth.

Aug 6, 2025: Quality Management Principles

This session focused on the fundamentals of quality management, enabling businesses to enhance customer satisfaction and operational efficiency.

Aug 7, 2025: Financial Management and Recordkeeping

We explored key financial strategies for small businesses, helping owners understand recordkeeping, budgeting, and managing their finances for growth.

Aug 8, 2025: Marketing Fundamentals and Awareness Session

Entrepreneurs learned practical marketing strategies, from defining target audiences to building strong brands, and applying the 4 P's of marketing for business success.

A heartfelt thank you to all the participants who joined us this week! Your passion and dedication to growing your businesses will help shape a sustainable future for our MSMEs. We are proud to continue supporting and empowering small businesses.

NSBW 2025 charts the way for MSME growth and competitiveness



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on Saturday, August 9, successfully concluded the 2025 iteration of its National Small Business Week (NSBW). This flagship event, which saw the participation of scores of businesses, entrepreneurs and students provided an invaluable capacity-building and networking opportunity for all participants.

Following the completion of a series of workshops which benefited businesses—particularly Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME)—in areas such as Small Business Management, Accessing Financing through the Small Business Bureau Loan Facility, Quality Management Principles, Financial Management and Record Keeping, and Marketing Fundamentals as well as the 2025 ‘Teenternship Programme’, the NSBW Seminar and Expo—held at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre—featured businesses showcasing and selling their products, and marketing their services.

Hosted under the 2025 theme, “Funding Innovation: Building a Sustainable Future for MSMEs,” this event was a reaffirmation of the Chamber’s commitment to shaping an enabling environment for MSMEs, while ensuring that Guyana’s small businesses have the capacity, access, and partnerships to successfully immerse themselves in the country’s business landscape. President of the GCCI, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith in her remarks emphasised the key characteristics that are needed in the business environment, highlighting the need for ‘R.A.P. - Resilience, Access, and Partnerships’— an essential to MSME success. “Small business owners face real challenges—from cash flow to hiring and keeping staff, market uncertainty, and limited financial resources. But you must be resilient, stay the course, and plan strategically. Your resilience keeps the economy alive,” she urged. She added that challenges of access can only be overcome when doors are opened to finance, markets, training, procurement opportunities, and support, noting, “Today, thanks to the many national efforts and committed stakeholders working together, those doors are opening wider than ever, making it possible for MSMEs to step in and grow.”

Attendees of the seminar also benefitted from key insights into digital transformation, green innovation, cybersecurity readiness, and financial resilience, with expert overviews in areas such as diversity, equity, and inclusion and its competitive advantages in innovation and expansion.

This year’s NSBW was executed through the support of Corporate Sponsor, BRAVA Solutions; Strategic Partner, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); Co-Corporate Sponsor, the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry; Platinum Sponsor, Assuria; Gold Sponsor, the Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination, and Silver Sponsors—Kojac, Dynotech Construction Chemical Incorporated, ACE Consulting Group, Vista Services, Lodestar Incorporated, Regav Solutions, and Fraites Guyana.

GCCI participates in International Building Expo 2025



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) is currently participating in the International Building Expo 2025, with President of the Chamber, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith addressing the opening ceremony on August 14 at the Guyana National Stadium.

In her remarks, President Smith highlighted the appropriate nature of the event's theme, "The Road to Success: Guyana 2030 and beyond," saying that it broadly examines the development trajectory that the country is on. "Infrastructure is the backbone of Guyana's transformation," she stated, later adding, "I am happy to be part of an event that has not only become a hallmark event for the construction sector in Guyana but a platform through which we are better able to understand the growth and development of infrastructure in our beautiful country."

Iterating that doors not only connect communities and people, but save time and money, Mrs. Smith said, "Our roads are opening doors for people and our roads are building our people," as she commended the government's commitment to the development of the country's infrastructure.

Member of the GCCI are also participating in the Expo and members of the public are invited to visit the Chamber and its members in Main Auditorium Two in Booths 27-29.

GCCI participates in International Building Expo 2025



President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Mrs. Kathy S. Smith on Sunday, August 17, visited members of the Chamber that participated in the International Building Expo 2025 at the Guyana National Stadium.

Mrs. Smith met with representatives of the businesses and engaged them to hear about their experience at the Expo and feedback from the public. The companies all shared that the Expo provided an excellent opportunity to engage with their customers while opening up a platform to market their goods and services to potential customers. She also took the opportunity to learn more about the products and services being offered by GCCI members.

Puran Brothers Inc. provides sanitary services at International Business Expo



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) recognises the meaningful contribution of Puran Brothers Inc. in solely sponsoring the sanitary services for the International Building Expo 2025 at the Guyana National Stadium.

The company provided 35 washroom units and 100 garbage receptacles for the four-day event which ran from August 14-17, 2025.

The Chamber commends Puran Brothers for their commitment to excellent and efficient service.

MEETINGS

GCCI meets with EU Elections Observer Mission



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on August 8 hosted representatives of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) at its office to discuss preparations for the upcoming General and Regional Elections, scheduled for 1 September 2025. This engagement forms part of the EU EOM's broader efforts to meet with key stakeholders across Guyana's electoral landscape; including civil society, the media, political actors, electoral authorities, and the private sector; in pursuit of a comprehensive and impartial assessment of the electoral process.

GCCI President, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith, opened the meeting by emphasising the critical importance of timely and transparent electoral outcomes to preserve investor confidence and economic momentum, especially given the protracted results process of the 2020 elections.

Mrs. Smith also confirmed that GCCI has submitted its application for accredited observer status, as has been done in previous elections, and has engaged the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to facilitate training-of-trainers for its observer team.

"We at GCCI remain impartial and committed to observing and reporting our findings to the Election Day Command Center, as we have done in the past. Whatever the outcome, it must reflect the will of the people and the development of the economy must not be stymied," she stated.

Mr. Kai Schaefer, Election Analyst of the EU EOM, engaged on topics of electoral preparedness, the role of the private sector, and the promotion of transparency and peace throughout the election period.

Mr. Schaefer clarified that while the mission is deployed by the European Union, it operates independently of the EU Delegation based in Guyana. He shared that on Wednesday, 6 August 2025, the EU EOM deployed 14 Long-Term Observers across all 10 regions of the country.

The EU team is observing all aspects of the electoral process, including election administration, the legal framework, conduct of the campaign, involvement of civil society, and media coverage. The mission is led by Chief Observer Robert Biedroń, who heads the 50-person team conducting an impartial observation and assessment of the electoral process as the country prepares for the General and Regional Elections.

Councillor and Immediate Past President Kester Hutson, Secretary Kristia Ramalghan-Prescott, and Councillors Paul Archer, Keon Howard, and Eusi Evelyn represented the GCCI at the meeting. From the EU EOM team, Mr. Kai Schaefer was accompanied by Mr. Junior Paul Chanderpaul, Election Analyst Assistant.

Yesterday's engagement with the EU EOM reflects GCCI's continued commitment to constructive, non-partisan participation in the democratic process and to safeguarding the integrity of Guyana's electoral framework.

GCCI President meets with Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Argentine Republic



The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) continues to pursue collaborations for the benefit of its membership, and on August 12, President of the Chamber, Mrs. Kathy S. Smith met with Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Argentine Republic, Mr. Carlos Alfaro and discussed potential areas for partnership.

Mrs. Smith provided an overview of the Chamber's history, role and activities, while broaching potential areas for collaboration that are geared towards increasing trade relations between Guyana and Argentina.

The two parties committed to continuing talks on prospective trade missions and similar activities aimed at connecting Guyanese and Argentinian businesses.

GCCI meets with Caricom and Commonwealth Elections Observer Missions

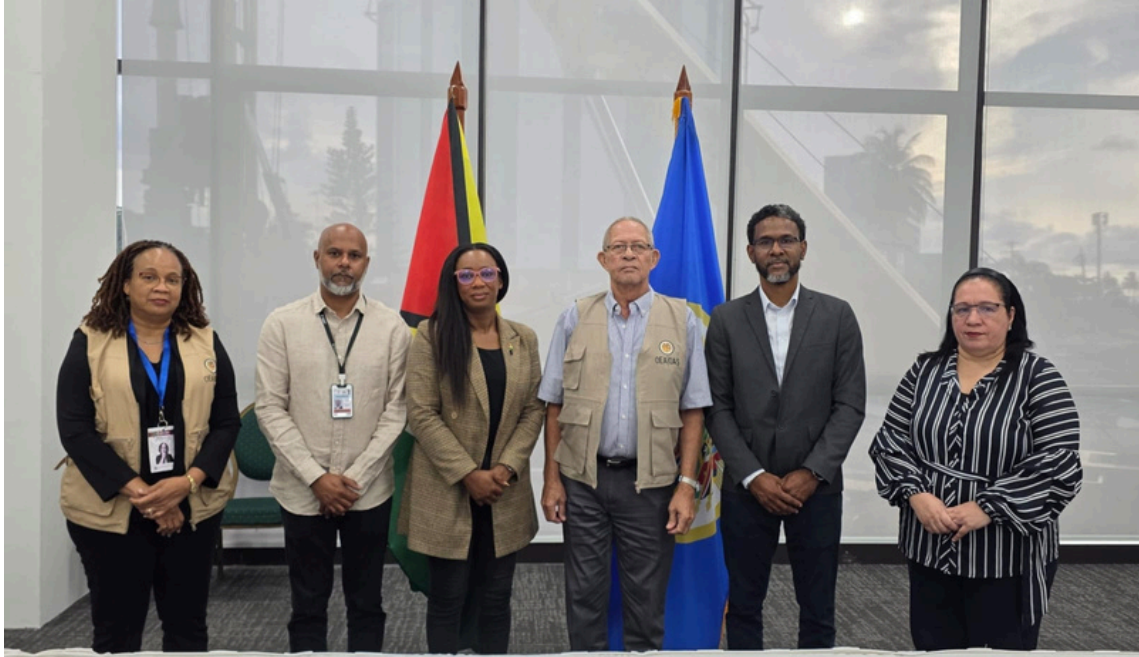


President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Mrs. Kathy Smith, along with members of the Private Sector Commission on August 28, met with members of the Caricom and Commonwealth Elections Observer Missions.

The meeting with the Caricom team occurred at the Caricom Secretariat, Turkeyen. Meanwhile the private sector met with the Commonwealth delegation at the Aiden by Best Western Hotel, where President Smith was joined by Executive Member and Past President of the GCCI, Mr. Timothy Tucker.

These engagements saw discussions on the Chamber's role as an Accredited Observer body, the GCCI's plan for Election Day, and the role of Observers and their conduct. At these meetings, the Chamber iterated its position of seeking to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

GCCI meets with OAS Elections Observer Mission



The President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), Mrs. Kathy S. Smith, along with Councillors on August 30, met with members of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Elections Observer Mission.

The meeting with the OAS delegation occurred at the Pegasus Hotel, and saw the attendance of Executive Member and Past President, Mr. Timothy Tucker and Councillors, Mr. Rayad Boyce and Ms. Mary Nagasar.

The GCCI team engaged the OAS Electoral Observation Mission team, led by Hon. Bruce Golding, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, on key aspects of the upcoming 2025 General and Regional Elections in Guyana inclusive of the electoral process, List of Electors, electoral technology, electoral justice, political-electoral finance, and the political participation of women.

The GCCI reiterated its support for free, fair, and transparent elections that are accompanied by credible and timely results.

STATEMENT



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

"Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889"

President: Mrs. Kathy Smith

August 26, 2025

Statement *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Rebuking attempts to incite instability during GRE 2025

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) strongly rejects attempts being made by political parties to cast the country into uncertainty, and contrived efforts to destabilise the electoral process.

The Chamber notes the statements emanating from contesting parties claiming that they have 'won' in specific regions, even as votes from the Joint Services, the very first segment of the voting populace, are yet to be tabulated. Additionally, some candidates have publicly made assertions of their opponent(s) intent to interfere with the election results and their willingness to support extreme actions, if in their opinion, those claims are realised.

The successful execution of a national election is the fundamental tenet of a democratic country. As an accredited local observer, the Chamber rebukes any narrative or action aimed at destabilising the election process and casting society into a state of uncertainty and peril during this crucial period. The Chamber stands firmly in its position that any self-serving attempt to usurp the electoral process must be met with strong condemnation and legal action, where necessary.

The Chamber will continue to monitor this critical period and echoes its previous calls for a free, fair, and transparent election that is accompanied by timely results, and urges all parties to maintain peace and respect for the democratic electoral process during the election and to desist from making inciteful statements that aim to undermine the legal electoral process.

-END-

156 Waterloo Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana
P.O. Box: 10110
Tel: (592) 225-5846/227-6441/226-351
gcccommerce2009@gmail.com

STATEMENT



Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry

“Serving Guyana through Commerce and Industry since 1889”

President: Mrs. Kathy Smith

August 30, 2025

Statement *by*

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce & Industry *in support of*

Maintenance of peace and stability during GRE 2025

-START-

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) notes with strong consternation the insinuations of intended violence based on unfounded speculation of interference attempts in the General and Regional Election 2025.

The Chamber calls on the public to maintain peace and stability during this democratic process and respect the rule of law. Acts aimed at destabilising society and creating chaos serve no purpose in a country that is rapidly developing and only aim to disrupt the advancement of Guyana.

The GCCCI urges all contesting parties to maintain peace and urge their supporters to respect the process and outcome of the election, and reject any attempt to incite unrest. The Chamber stands firm on its position that it supports a free, fair, and transparent election that is accompanied by timely results.

-END-