



**DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC
OF GUYANA**

PROCLAMATION NO. 1 OF 2025

WHEREAS the coastal regions, including two-thirds of Region 4 and Georgetown of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana has been subjected to extreme and unprecedented rainfall events commencing on 24th March, 2025, resulting in catastrophic flooding affecting over 400,000 persons across multiple administrative regions;

AND WHEREAS the cumulative rainfall exceeded 60 inches within 72 hours constituting a significant flood event, causing:

- (a) loss of human life with 54 confirmed fatalities with 120 persons unaccounted for;
- (b) displacement of approximately 3,000 citizens requiring emergency shelter;
- (c) widespread damage to critical infrastructure including:

- i. Guyana Power and Light distribution systems (50% outage in Demerara-Mahaica);
- ii. Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation medical facilities affecting the efficient supply of medical care;
- iii. Guyana Water Incorporated supply networks with confirmed contamination risks particularly from septic tanks; and
- iv. Severe disruption of major transportation corridors including the East Coast Demerara Highway, West Bank Demerara Road, and associated feeder roads.

AND WHEREAS the scale and severity of this disaster exceed the response capacity of the authorities in the various administrative regions affected and necessitate the immediate mobilization of national resources and international assistance;

NOW THEREFORE, I, DR. MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, in exercise of the powers vested in me by Article 99 of the Constitution, do hereby declare:

1. DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

A Level 3 National Disaster Emergency exists for the following administrative regions:

Region 4 (Demerara-Mahaica), including the Georgetown Municipality

2. EMERGENCY POWERS ACTIVATED

Pursuant to this Proclamation, the following measures shall take immediate effect:

- a) Mobilization of the Guyana Defence Force to conduct search and rescue operations and enforce mandatory evacuations in zones designated by the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and secure critical infrastructure sites.
- b) Activation of Emergency Procurement Protocols under the National Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan, the National Disaster Risk Management and any written laws of Guyana, including under Section 28(c) of the Procurement Act, Cap. 73:05, Laws of Guyana for relief supplies distribution and infrastructure rehabilitation contracts.
- c) Grant resource requisition authority to the CDC;
- d) Command and commandeer private vessels or vehicles for rescue operations; and
- e) allocate public or private buildings for emergency shelter.

3. DURATION

This Proclamation shall remain in force for fourteen (14) days from the date of publication in the Official *Gazette*.

4. SAFEGUARDS

All measures taken under this Proclamation shall:

- a) respect fundamental rights under Articles 138-154 of the Constitution;
- b) be subject to judicial review under the Judicial Review Act, Cap. 3:06, Laws of Guyana;
- c) comply with international humanitarian law obligations.

5. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is authorized to:

- a) formalise requests for assistance through CARICOM's CDEMA mechanism or any other international partner for disaster risk management;
- b) accept bilateral aid offers from international organisation including from United Nations agencies and partner states.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The Civil Defence Commission shall serve as the lead coordinating entity, with all government ministries, agencies, and regional democratic councils rendering full cooperation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the President to be affixed this 26 day of March, 2024.

H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

