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Industry Convener Sherriann Elcock Brings Together GAREP, GRA, Banks and Legal Community for Landmark Real Estate Forum

Real Estate Forward: Guyana 2026 & Beyond draws 42 agents and industry leaders to the Centre for Local Business Development to address professionalism, compliance, financing and the modernization of Guyana's property market.

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — On Friday, May 22, 2026, industry convener Sherriann Elcock brought together forty-two agents and industry leaders from across Guyana's real estate ecosystem at the Centre for Local Business Development on South Road, Bourda, for Real Estate Forward: Guyana 2026 & Beyond — a four-hour industry forum addressing professionalism, regulatory compliance, financing access and the future of property transactions in Guyana.

The forum featured speakers from the Guyana Association of Real Estate Professionals (GAREP), the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), Republic Bank, the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI), the legal community, and Guyana HomeHub, the country's digital real estate listing platform.

"This forum was about bringing the right people into one room at the right time," said Sherriann Elcock, Convener of Real Estate Forward. "Guyana's real estate market is moving fast, and the only way the industry keeps pace responsibly is for regulators, financiers, legal professionals, technology platforms and working agents to talk directly to one another. That is what happened on Friday."

GAREP Keynote: The World Is Watching Guyana

Delivering the keynote address, Nicola Duggan, BSc., Director of the Guyana Association of Real Estate Professionals, told attendees that the world is watching Guyana to see whether its rapid growth is managed with integrity. Duggan emphasized that licensing, due diligence and professional standards are foundational to whether Guyana attracts long-term investor confidence.

Duggan noted that with oil and gas capital, diaspora investment from North America and Europe, and multinational executives entering the market, every buyer is now evaluating whether the agents they engage are licensed, registered and accountable.

GRA Outlines Compliance Obligations for Practicing Agents

Representatives from the Guyana Revenue Authority addressed the forum on the legal and tax realities of practicing real estate in Guyana, including mandatory licensing, income tax, withholding tax and VAT obligations. The GRA emphasized that agents have a duty to inform their clients about tax responsibilities tied to property transactions.

The GRA's direct engagement with the working real estate community signaled that compliance enforcement is becoming a priority as the market expands.

Legal Risks and Buyer Protection

Attorney Tiffany Jeffrey-Durant addressed the forum on the legal risks facing both agents and buyers in Guyana's property market. Drawing on real cases, she outlined transactions involving disputed titles, sellers who did not legally own the properties they were marketing, and buyers who lost significant funds due to inadequate due diligence.

Jeffrey-Durant stressed that title verification, ownership confirmation and proper documentation are the agent's professional responsibility — not optional services — and that protecting buyers protects the reputation of the entire industry.

Republic Bank and GBTI Debunk Mortgage Myths

Representatives from Republic Bank and the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI) addressed widely-held misconceptions about the difficulty of obtaining mortgages in Guyana. Republic Bank presented its Mortgage Move product, designed to facilitate property acquisition and refinancing, while GBTI walked attendees through the actual mortgage application process and current financing options.

Both banks took extensive questions from the audience. The central takeaway was that financing in Guyana is more accessible than commonly assumed and that the primary barrier is information rather than availability.

Guyana HomeHub on Closing the Information Gap

Darren Buckner, Founder of Guyana HomeHub, presented at the forum on how technology is addressing long-standing inefficiencies in the Guyanese property market, including duplicated listings, unverified inventory and the fragmentation of property information across informal social media channels.

The Guyana HomeHub platform currently hosts over 144 verified properties and more than 30 approved agents, and is available on iOS, Android and web.

A Coordinated Path Forward

Closing the forum, Elcock urged attendees to apply what they had learned, value their professional time and grow as a cohesive and compliant industry. The convergence of GAREP, the GRA, the banks, the legal community, working agents and technology platforms in a single forum represents one of the most significant industry coordination efforts the Guyana real estate sector has seen.

Following the strong response from attendees, a follow-up forum is being planned for later in 2026.

About Real Estate Forward: Guyana 2026 & Beyond

Real Estate Forward: Guyana 2026 & Beyond is an industry forum convened by Sherriann Elcock to bring together regulators, financial institutions, legal professionals, real estate practitioners and technology platforms to address the future of property transactions in Guyana. The inaugural event was held on May 22, 2026 at the Centre for Local Business Development in Georgetown.

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