

CONFERENCE STATEMENT
ANNUAL INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE – 25th-26th FEBRUARY 2026

Submitted by Clifton Hicken
Commissioner of Police

**Theme: Modern Policing for a Modern Nation: Integrating technology, innovation
and leadership to strengthen public safety and trust**

The Annual Inspectors' Conference, held on the 25th and 26th February 2026, marked a decisive operational checkpoint in the continued transformation of the Guyana Police Force. Over two intensive days of structured presentations and strategic dialogue, Inspectors acquire knowledge on operational performance, administrative discipline, digital transformation, infrastructure expansion, crime trends, traffic enforcement, professional standards, welfare systems, and the execution readiness of the Force's reform agenda at the station and divisional levels.

Unlike the Officers' Conference, which focused on strategic direction, the Inspectors' Conference concentrated on execution—translating national mandates into frontline supervision, discipline, and measurable service delivery.

National Direction and Ministerial Expectations

In her address to Inspectors, the Minister of Home Affairs, Ms. Oneidge Walrond, made it clear that the engagement was not ceremonial—it was operational. Inspectors were reminded that they serve at a defining moment in Guyana's history, characterised by rapid national transformation, expanding infrastructure, increasing traffic volumes, digital growth, and rising security demands. The Minister reiterated that the President's Eight Pillars constitute the operational mandate for the Guyana Police Force:

- Justice System Integration
- Digital Transformation of Policing
- Border & National Security Modernisation
- Crime Prevention & Social Intervention
- Human Resource Reform
- Legislative Reform Agenda
- Cybercrime & Financial Crime Capacity
- Community Partnership & Public Safety

These pillars were framed not as abstract policies or conference rhetoric, but as clear operational imperatives. The 2026 Charge was unequivocal: execution rests with Inspectors, and performance will be measured not by effort, but by tangible results—demonstrated through visible supervision, court-ready case files, consistent traffic enforcement, proactive disruption of organised crime, and zero tolerance for corruption

Commissioner of Police Address

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Clifton Hicken, reaffirmed that Modern Policing for a Modern Nation is not merely a theme, but a national expectation that demands disciplined execution at the station level. He underscored that Inspectors serve as the essential bridge between policy direction and frontline delivery, with direct responsibility for ensuring that strategic priorities are translated into measurable improvements in service to the public.

He reported that approximately 75% of the 2022–2026 Strategic Plan has been achieved, reflecting tangible progress in technology-driven policing, infrastructure development, a 25% reduction in crime, digitised case management systems, and strengthened human resource capacity. Key investments in command centres, body-worn cameras, CCTV networks, expanded fleet assets, welfare services, and prosecutorial support were highlighted as transformative milestones in the Force’s modernisation agenda.

As the organisation moves forward, attention will shift to consolidation under a new strategic pillar—Innovation, Technology and Adaptability. This phase will prioritise predictive policing models, integrated electronic case management, biometric border security systems, digitised examination processes, enhanced forensic capabilities, and the decentralisation of welfare services to better support ranks across all regions.

The Commissioner emphasised that these initiatives constitute operational directives rather than conceptual frameworks, and that Inspectors will be assessed on their ability to execute with discipline, demonstrate accountability, and deliver measurable results that strengthen public safety and reinforce public trust.

Day One – Operational and Administrative Readiness

Day One focused on the operational foundations of command:

- Administrative discipline and Stores Regulations
- Crime trends and enforcement strategies
- Traffic management and projections
- Intelligence-led and data-driven policing
- Case management and integration of technology
- Infrastructure
- Fleet and marine capability
- Command Centre operations

While overall serious crime declined by 25.5%, the Crime Chief, Mr. Wendell Blahum, cautioned that reductions must not create complacency. Gun robberies, narcotics trafficking, cybercrime, and transnational criminal networks continue to demand proactive intelligence, precise deployment, and structured supervision.

Deputy Commissioner “Administration”, Mr. Ravindradath Budhram, emphasised institutional governance, performance accountability, and the continued implementation of the 2022–2026 Strategic Plan. He underscored the importance of strengthening performance management systems, developing personnel capacity, enhancing partnerships, and preparing the organisation for the 2027–2031 Strategic Plan under the new pillar of *Innovation, Technology and Adaptability*.

Deputy Commissioner “Operations” provided a comprehensive operational update on infrastructure expansion, including newly constructed police stations, boat houses, and Command Centres, alongside fleet and marine asset acquisition and training. He stressed the need for structured patrol deployment, disciplined asset management, proper supervision and briefing of ranks, monitoring of migrant activity in coordination with Immigration, and strict adherence to use-of-force standards, reinforcing that operational readiness depends on consistent supervision and accountability at the station level.

The Traffic Department identified persistent challenges, including speeding, impaired driving, infrastructure gaps, and increased vehicle volume. The direction remains clear: technology-enabled enforcement, consistent supervision, and structured public engagement.

The Command Centre presentation demonstrated expanded IVS capabilities, including License Plate Recognition and Facial Recognition systems. However, technology must be governed ethically and utilised consistently.

Examples of Decisions Made on the First Day:

- Continuous cash records training
- Regular impaired driving awareness initiatives
- Mandatory e-ticketing training across all divisions
- Implementation timelines were immediate.

Day Two – Accountability, Governance, and Strategic Readiness

Day Two addressed institutional integrity and future capability:

- Care and Custody of Prisoners
- Financial and Stores Regulations compliance
- Office of Professional Responsibility perspective
- Strategic Plan successes and projections
- Emerging threats and AI governance
- Human resilience and ethical leadership

The Office of Professional Responsibility reported measurable improvements:

- 5.5% reduction in overall complaints
- 41% reduction in neglect of duty complaints
- 35.5% reduction in assault complaints

However, recurring issues—poor supervision, incomplete records, delayed files—were identified as supervisory weaknesses rather than systemic failures.

The inclusion of a new strategic pillar—**Innovation, Technology and Adaptability**—for the 2027–2031 Plan marks a structural shift toward digital transformation and predictive capability. Case Management integration emphasised digital tracking, chain of custody integrity, and legal compliance—transitioning from managing files to managing outcomes. Human resilience discussions reinforced that transformation requires stable, ethical, and adaptable leaders—not technology alone.

Examples of Decisions Made on the Second Day:

- Mandatory digital school registration
- Submission of Strategic Plan consultation responses
- Timely submission of service rendered accounts
- AI programme coordination with the University of Guyana
- Completion of ZARA IT training by August 2026

The Conference closed with a clear directive: reform must now be consolidated through disciplined supervision and measurable results at the station level. While significant progress has been made, sustained success depends on Inspectors' leadership, accountability, and daily execution. The standard going forward is simple—professionalism, consistent enforcement, and visible results that strengthen public safety and public trust.

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