



February 8, 2019.

**STATEMENT  
GFF PRESIDENT WAYNE FORDE**

Hon. Minister of State – Lt. Col. (Ret') Joseph Harmon.  
Hon. Director of Sports – Mr. Christopher Jones.  
Executive Committee members of the Guyana Football Federation.  
Members of the media.  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today marks a huge milestone for football in Guyana and a defining moment for the future of every young boy and girl who dreams of playing the game at the highest level.

On behalf of the entire football fraternity, I would like to thank the Government of Guyana and in particular, President David Granger for his steadfast commitment to the development of Sports across Guyana.

This project has been in the works for some time, and I want to thank everyone involved who has helped to make it a reality.

The Guyana Football Federation was established in 1902 – this year will mark our 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

And yet, despite this long history, we are only now constructing our first “Home of Football” at Providence under the FIFA Forward programme.

Thanks to the vision of the government, we now have the opportunity of a second major, groundbreaking and game-changing infrastructural project for football.

There is no doubt, that with little to show for more than a century, football is finally making meaningful progress – by building two football exclusive facilities over the next four years. This is truly a proud moment for the entire football family and all of Guyana.

The D'Urban Park Football Complex project will house an international quality full size pitch, two minipitches and a new headquarters for the Guyana Football Federation. The minipitches will be fully accessible to the general public for community football tournaments and recreational games.

The importance of high quality football pitches is inextricably linked to the quality of players we develop and the quality of our National teams. Without the right

infrastructure, we cannot develop football. It's as simple as that. We cannot improve standards, we cannot compete at the highest level of the sport.

This project will help the GFF to increase participation in football, spot talent in its infancy stage, increase the player population, raise the quality of our football programmes, improve the image of the sport, enhance community cohesion and improve the health and well-being of our communities.

It is one more giant step in the ongoing efforts of my Executive Committee to use our time in office to lay a solid and lasting foundation for the sustainable development of football.

This is a giant leap in our quest to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

In short, this land, this project, will further our ongoing efforts to completely transform football in Guyana.

I want to thank the entire football fraternity for their ongoing support, dedication and daily sacrifices for football. This is truly a defining moment for everyone in football and one that we share with everyone who has contributed towards the growth of the sport over the past 117 years.

Thank you once again to the Government of Guyana for this opportunity to work together for the betterment of our sport and our society. I pledge to ensure that this land is put to good use for the good of our young people and the development of the beautiful game.

Finally, I would like to invite other stakeholders, especially from the corporate world, to come on board to help us in the realization of this project and the growth of football across the country.

We can achieve so much by working together in partnerships such as the one we are creating here today with the Government of Guyana.

Thank you.

Wayne Forde.