

# INVESTMENT AND COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES IN SURINAME AND GUYANA FOR PORTUGUESE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

Information based on a fact-finding mission to Suriname and Guyana from Sunday 8 to Saturday 14 March 2026

SURINAME

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THE MISSION WAS A REPRESENTATION OF THE **ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DAS EMPRESAS METALÚRGICAS E ELECTROMECÂNICAS (ANEME),** REPRESENTED BY *CARLA DO NASCIMENTO GAGO ROSA*, AND THE CH **GROUP** CONSORTIUM, REPRESENTED BY *MIGUEL PEIXOTO*.

# SURINAME FACTS

- **General Information**
- The Republic of Suriname, with its capital Paramaribo, is probably best known for being one of the greenest nations on earth, with more than 90% of its surface covered by dense tropical rainforest. Suriname with its extensive natural resources and impressive biodiversity lies in the northeast of South America and is part of the Guiana's. The country covers an area of 163,270 square kilometers.
- **Language**
- Dutch is the official language, but English is widely spoken and understood. Sranan Tongo is the lingua franca. Most of the population also speak their ethnic language such as Sarnami, Javanese, Chinese (Hakka and Mandarin), different Maroon and Indigenous languages.
- **Population**
- The history of Suriname accounts for the country's highly diversified ethnic population, with a very diverse ethnic heritage, consisting of native indigenous people (Amerindians) and Maroons (descendants of African slaves) who are still living traditionally in the hinterland, mixed Afro Surinamese (Creoles), descendants of immigrants from India, China, Indonesia, Europe.
- At the same time traditional ways of life of the ethnic groups have remained the same. In recent decades an increasing number of immigrants from China (known as new Chinese) and Brazil have also settled in Suriname.

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| **Area** | **163.270 Sq. Kms** |
| **Capital City** | Paramaribo |
| **Population** | 632.000 (est. 0 |
| **Official language** | Dutch |
| **Literacy** | 95% |
| **National Day** | 25 November |
| **Climate** | Tropical |
| **Financial year** | 1 January – 31 December |
| **Form of Government** | Constitutional Democracy, President is both Head of State and Head of Government |
| **Ethnic Groups** | Hindustanis (27.4 %), Creoles (17.7 %), Javanese (14.6%), Maroons (15.3 %), Mixed (12.5%), Others (6.4%) |
| **Religions** | Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Other |
| **Official rate of exchange** | US$ = SRD 37.50 |
| **Principal Exports** | Alumina, Bauxite, Gold, Crude Oil, Rice, Shrimp, Fish, Lumber. |
| **Principal Imports** | Consumer goods, capital goods, raw-material, oil & gas |
| **Forestry/Agriculture** | Timber, Rice, Banana, Citrus Fruits, Tropical vegetables, Fisheries, Shrimps |
| **Major Trading Partners** | The Netherlands, USA, China, Japan, Brazil, Indonesia, Trinidad & Tobago, Canada, Guyana |

# KEY 2025 ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR SURINAME:

**Nominal GDP per Capita:** ~$6,860

**GDP per Capita (PPP):** ~$22,440

**Total Nominal GDP:** ~$4.51 to $4.66 billion

**Annual GDP Growth:** 3.2%

# PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES OF INFORMATIO N

- The Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation, Mr *. Andrew Baasaron*
- The Minister of Oil, Gas and the Environment, Mr. *Patrick Brunings*
- The **Suriname Investment and Trade Agency (SITA)**
- The **Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
- Various local entrepreneurs.

# THE MISSION FOCUSED ON IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE FOLLOWING SECTORS

- METALLURGY
- ELECTROMECHANICAL INDUSTRY
- CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- OIL & GAS
- ENERGY
- AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY
- INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION
- TECHNICAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLAABORATION AND INVESTMENT: SURINAME

- Suriname has significant opportunities for investment and strategic partnerships.
- Local businesses show strong ambitions for growth and expansion, but are hampered by factors such as tax laws, limited incentives, access to capital, and a shortage of qualified personnel.
- Further development and tightening of laws and regulations is necessary, especially in the areas of investment protection, repatriation of capital, local content and a transparent and efficient investment process.

# FURTHER

Compared to Guyana, Suriname is perceived as more reluctant to actively promote investment and entrepreneurship. In Guyana, there was significantly more institutional and business involvement, resulting in multiple Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and concrete business-to-business (B2B) initiatives.

The minister of economic affairs urge the Portuguese delegation not to hesitate to implement concrete actions, because a lot of foreign companies are trying to get settle before the real expected oil boom in 2028. After the delegation left Suriname there were indeed a number of initiatives from other businesses anticipating the needs related to the expected economic growth.

The minister of Oil & Gas was more focused on education and technical skills development because that's one of the biggest bottlenecks if it comes to opportunities for local content.

Another government agency (SITA) advised the Portuguese mission to find a way for a local representation keeping an eye on all opportunities that will be offered in the coming period. They shared the information that at this moment preparations are made to partner with private organization to fulfill their task of investment and trade promotion. In the end they will be the right fit for ANEME since investment and trade promotion is their core objective.

# FURTHER

If it comes to partnering opportunities the Chamber of Commerce offers channels to get their members, who are all businesses registered in the legally mandatory Trade Register. They are also ready for guiding Portuguese businesses in their strive to start up business here.

A number of businesses are looking for and ready to partner with foreign companies, who need a base or local partner in Suriname.

General conclusion for Suriname: Since the oil 7 gas boom is expected 2 years from now a much legislation still need to be organized, you do 1 things:

A. Either wait until all legislation and structures are in place

B. Start now with business while there all still plenty of open opportunities.

# BEST OPPORTUNITIES AT THIS MOMENT

- OIL & GAS SUPPORTING BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY
- EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR COMPETENCIES RELATED TO OIL & GAS INDUSTRY
- HOUSING
- AGRICULTURE
- INFRASTRUCTURE.