



## **REMARKS | PRESIDENT WAYNE FORDE**

### **Recognition Reception for the National U20 Men's Team**

**February 27, 2020**

Greetings and Welcome:

- Players & Staff
- Executive Committee Members
- Sponsors and Partners
- Media

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honoured guests,

Today we are privileged to acknowledge the outstanding performances of the National Under-20 Male team, in the recent Concacaf Qualifiers as a historic milestone in the development of football in Guyana and to declare that this has been the country's best performance at an international Under 20 male competition.

This is undoubtedly a proud moment for our country and a fitting tribute on the occasion of our 50th Republic Anniversary. It is therefore my honour to say congratulations and thank you to our players and staff on behalf of all of Guyana.

These exemplary young men rose above the daunting challenges that began upon their arrival in Nicaragua, which persisted agonizingly throughout the campaign and only ended when the final whistle blew, to bring an end to a game that can be best described as a courageous display of the temperament and character of a true Golden Jaguar. You all played with confidence, passion and pride and we are all extremely proud of the dignified manner in which you conducted yourselves – as true ambassadors, on and off the field.

With your approval, I would like to announce to the rest of the Region and beyond that the Guyana Football Federation male and female teams at all levels are no longer attending these International tournaments for the sake of participation but rather to compete and win and to do that fairly as well.

It is clear that the GFF has been making steady progress in many of the key areas of football development but acknowledges that there is quite a distance yet to cover in order to truly impact the quality of the sport across the vast stretches of our beautiful country. It will take time, it will take careful investment, and it will require institutional discipline and the support of a genuine cadre of faithful partners to fully unleash Guyana's true potential on the football Field.

It pleases to recognize our Youth Development partners who have answered that call, just to name a few, the NATIONAL MILLING COMPANY, PELE ALUMNI Org, KFC GUYANA, ANSA

MCAL Group and the Government of Guyana. I wish to thank you for your firm commitment to the growth and development of football but, more importantly, the young people of Guyana.

I would also like to thank the media for remaining ever engaged in the business and activities of all things football.

Finally, I would like to commend our Technical and Coaching Team led by Mr. Ian Greenwood, for the tremendous work they continue to do day after day.

Thank you and may God continue to bless the Guyana Football Federation.