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Brazil foreign minister begins Suriname, Guyana visit

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Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira

By Ray Chickrie
Caribbean News Now contributor

PARAMARIBO, Suriname -- Brazil's foreign minister, Mauro Vieira, will begin his first visit to the Guyanas in Suriname on Tuesday and hold meetings with President Desi Bouterse and the foreign minister of Suriname, Niermala Badrising, in an effort to further advance South American integration within the framework of South-South cooperation.

The two countries are looking to further cooperate in the areas of natural resources, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, public health and security by sharing information and expertise. Suriname and Brazil are expected to sign various agreements to cooperate in the fight against malaria, HIV/AIDS and zika. Agreements will also be signed to stimulate rice and cocoa cultivation. Also, Brazil will provide technical support in the production of a new geological map of Suriname.

After Suriname, Vieira will visit Guyana. The object of the visit according to Brazil's envoy to Guyana is to enhance collaboration between the two countries. The ambassador disclosed that areas such as military and technical cooperation and issues relating to CELAC, UNASUR and other regional mechanisms, to which both countries are party, will also top the agenda.

"We have a lot of things happening. Today there is a border meeting happening in the Lethem-Bom Fim area with huge delegations from both sides," the ambassador said.

He added that this engagement, along with the one that is scheduled for next week, is extremely important for both Guyana and Brazil.

Responding to the upcoming visit of Brazil's top diplomat to Guyana, President David Granger said, "It's a meeting that we look forward [to] and we feel that the continent of South America would be better for the collaboration between large nations such as Brazil."

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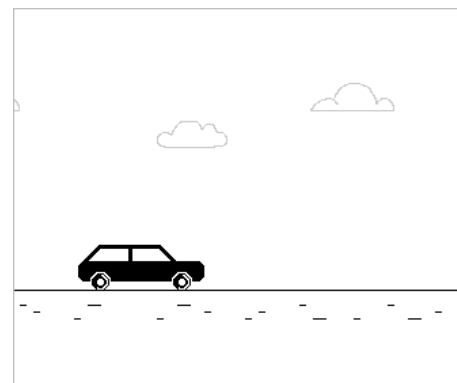
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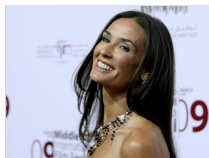
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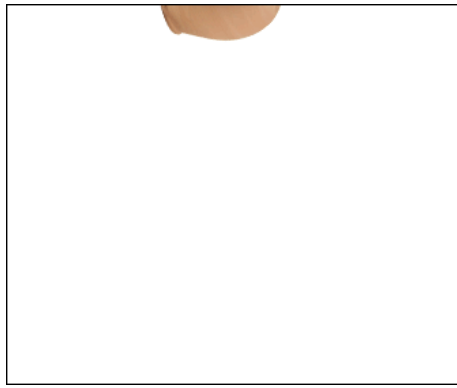
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