

# Global Spotlight on Guyana: BBC World Questions Sparks Debate on Oil Wealth and Governance.

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In recent years, Guyana has experienced significant economic growth following the discovery of offshore oil and gas within the Guyana–Suriname Basin in the Atlantic Ocean. This discovery marked the beginning of a new era of national wealth and development. Against this backdrop, the BBC World Service hosted its global discussion programme BBC World Questions, which encourages open debate on political, social and economic issues affecting Guyana [BBC World Questions: Guyana](#). Following an information session held on March 9th, 2026, at the University of Guyana’s Turkeyen Campus, the team from BBC World Service continued on March 10th at Pegasus Corporate Suites, Georgetown, hosting students from the University’s Communications Department, members of the public, and other stakeholders. The panel featured several influential voices, including Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh, Opposition Member of Parliament (We Invest in Nationhood) Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, Secretary of the Private Sector Commission of Guyana, Clinton Urling, Activist and Businesswoman of Blossom and SISPRO Inc., Ayodele Dalgety-Dean, and BBC World Service, Jonny Dymond who moderated the discussion. Concerns about government transparency became a major focus of the forum, particularly regarding oil revenue management and the role of Parliamentary oversight committees. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley mentioned that key committees, including the Public Accounts Committee,

remain inactive, which she argued weakens oversight and reduces accountability in the management of Public Funds. “The last budget that was passed, 51% of it went to infrastructure development, about fifth of that budget went to issues dealing with cost of living measures.”

The discussion also explored Guyana’s rapid economic growth. Overall, the discussions reflected both the opportunities and the challenges facing Guyana as it navigates its expanding oil economy while striving for transparency, accountability, and inclusive national development.



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