

*'A Nation Which Fails To Defend It Democracy, The Human Rights Of Its Citizens, Consents To, And Justifies the Abuses Of Its Government.'* – Craig Sylvester

# Bringing Guyana Into The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*Unleashing Guyana's  
Potential...*

**By Craig Sylvester, BSc (Econs)**



Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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# **Bringing Guyana Into The 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Second Edition

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**Craig Sylvester**

# Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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PUBLISHED FOR

THE GEORGETOWN CONSULTING GROUP

GUYANA

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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Guyana's Founding Father,  
Who Dedicated His Life In Service Of Guyanese,  
Who Demonstrated Courage And Determination  
Against All Odds;

The Memory Of Hugh Desmond Hoyte,  
The Father Of Our Modern Economy;

Guyana's Children;

Our Creator, the Father Of All Wisdom.

BOOK REVIEWS

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*“Very informative. Provides a clear picture of Guyana’s growth and development, post-independence era”*. - Sydney Armstrong, Head, Department of Economics, University of Guyana.

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

This second edition has been published to memorialize Dr. Cheddi Jagan's status as Guyana's founding father, to honor his life-long dedication to fighting poverty and raising the welfare of Guyana's working class, and is for me, a first step to recovering his stolen legacy. At this critical juncture of our nation's development where we are on the brink of returning to the treachery and corruption of the government of People's Progressive Party as witnessed in its earlier thirteen-year term ended in 2015, it serves also as an appeal to those within the People's Progressive Party to honor the life and memory of Dr. Jagan, to rescue their party from the tyranny of its de-factor leader, who has made it clear he remains committed to the Production Sharing Agreement with Exxon and its associates, the terms and conditions of which can only be interpreted to have been underwritten by corruption in high office. They especially have the power also to stop the almost criminal abuse meted out by the policies of this man against the nation's workers, the very people Dr. Jagan formed the PPP to serve and uplift.

The former APNU-AFC administration signed Exxon's 2016 Production Sharing Agreement which makes the Government of Guyana liable for the income taxes of Exxon (Article 15.4). Further, the Government's Minister must furnish such tax receipts to Exxon as evidence of payment of income taxes (Article 15.5). The subsequent PPP administration with Vice-President Bharrat Jagdeo assisting in leading Guyana's Oil & Gas Sector, agrees and insists that the contract remains in force until 2036 (KNews; 09/19/22). Governments around the world know that they have never seen such stupidity in government. They know the traits of inept, corrupt third world politicians selling out their country. Because there is no government which would ever agree to paying the income taxes of a multi-billion dollar energy corporation. Upon completing this book readers will be better able to contextualize Guyana's current and unfolding political and socio-economic climate.

Guyanese are living in their future, a future in which they have been blessed to have discoveries of massive amounts of natural resources which can be used to fund national development, eliminate the treachery of poverty and raise Guyana's standard of living on par with developed economies. This will only be possible after they have addressed the systemic failures within our national politics.

Finally, this edition addresses a few errors contained in the first.

*Craig Sylvester*  
*December 2022.*





## **PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION**

This select collection of my letters to the press was released to commemorate Guyana's 51<sup>st</sup> Independence Anniversary. The purpose of its publication is twofold. First, it combines most of my analyses of the economic problems faced by Guyana which directly impact the welfare of Guyanese into a single volume.

Secondly, at this juncture in our history when many of us have experienced government under both of our major political parties, it serves as a basis for examining the philosophies and outcomes achieved by their respective governments. Because what is becoming clear to us all is that Guyanese are becoming sorely disappointed and disenchanted with the change we voted for in 2015. Indeed, this compilation is a timely reminder of the political and economic issues which forced the PPP administration to call early elections in 2015, and underscores a number of issues to which the present Coalition administration committed on the campaign trail.

After just two years into its first term, the Coalition seems to have had a disconnect with its commitments made to Guyanese leading up to the 2015 elections, and has embarked on a course which has set it at odds with both the general population and the business community.

This turn of events is the unfolding of the worst case scenario of the change in government in 2015, since the last thing Guyana needs right now is a return of the PPP administration in its current form to government. The Coalition's inflexible stance on its economic policies which erode our welfare and damage economic prospects for the country as a whole has, to my mind, placed Guyana in a position where it has to face the real possibility of falling back into the hands of the corruption and abuse of the PPP.

Faced with this dilemma, anyone familiar with Guyana's politics would objectively recognize that the solution to Guyana's political and economic problems lies with neither of our major political parties. Upon completion of this volume, the reader should have a

much better perspective on the issues at hand and recognize the need to become more involved in moving Guyana forward. Because our political parties seem incapable of doing so.

This work is not an exposition into economic or political theory. It explores Guyana's contemporary political and economic problems based on my experience as an economist at the Bank of Guyana, with the primary objective being to effectively communicate these issues to the population. Much of what has been presented is based on reports and analyses in the local press, which is a plus in the context of the currency and relevance the material. A criticism of an earlier version of this work was that it could benefit from input from both sides of the aisle. In this regard, the Peoples Progressive Party was encouraged during its term in office to respond to the numerous issues raised. None was forthcoming. Similarly, the Coalition will also be given the opportunity to take to the public domain to respond to the issues which concern them. Suffice it to say that I have been honest and considerate in my assessment of the policies of both the PPP and the Coalition. And in this I am satisfied.

While this work could have benefitted from additional research, this was sacrificed for the primary objective of providing timely information upon which Guyanese can make reasoned decisions about their future. Every effort was made to produce a volume free of errors. Those that remain are mine.

Everyone, from individual consumers through to corporations and governments, reveal their preferences. This work is based on those revealed preferences. I will be content if the objects of its inquiry seek to defame and trivialize it. Its tale of honesty is not one which anyone would hastily grasp to claim as his own.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As always, literary works are never solely accomplished by the authors themselves. Mine is no exception. In this regard, I wish to first pay homage to our founding fathers, Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, two great men who inspired me as a young adult to pursue a career in understanding and responding to Guyana's development challenges.

Special mention is made of my friend and sister, with whom the idea of writing letters to the press was birthed. Grateful thanks are also extended to University of Guyana Librarian Mrs. Gwyneth George, who provided invaluable assistance in finalizing the structure of this work. Much appreciation is extended to other friends, colleagues and associates who provided support, encouragement and engagement on ideas for my letters.

Many thanks are also extended to the editors at *Kaieteur News* and *Stabroek News*. To the editor of *Kaieteur News*, who ensured that what I wanted to say was said, almost always printing my letters verbatim: A special thank you.

Thanks also to my two cherubs, whose love and constant distractions extended this work to its final publication date. I am also grateful to my dad, Clement Sylvester, whose faith in me was unyielding, and last but not by any means the least, I extend grateful thanks, and much love and appreciation to my mother, Barbara Lal, without whom much of what has been accomplished would not have been possible. To my mom and dad, parents whom I truly believe are the Hand of God.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

- AFC – Alliance For change
- APNU- A Partnership for National Unity
- BIS – Bank for International Settlements
- CARIBANK – Caribbean Development Bank
- CJIA – Cheddi Jagan International Airport
- CLICO – Colonial Life Insurance Company
- EU – European Union
- GRDB – Guyana Rice Development Board
- GUYSUCO – Guyana Sugar Corporation
- IADB – Inter-American Development Bank
- IMF – International Monetary Fund
- INTERPOL – International Police Organization
- NICIL – National Industrial & Commercial Investments Limited
- PNC – Peoples National Congress
- PNCR – Peoples National Congress Reform
- PPC – Public Procurement Commission
- PPP – Peoples Progressive Party
- US DEA – United States Drug Enforcement Authority



## SYNOPSIS

The PPP's 23-year run in government from 1992 through 2015 extracted tremendous social and economic costs on Guyanese. The economic growth which resulted from structural adjustment policies adopted under Hoyte's administration prior to 1992 ended abruptly in 1997<sup>1</sup>, with average growth over the six-year period ended 1997 recorded at 7.3 percent.

### Guyana – Real Economic Growth: 1992-2015.

Period	1992-97	1998-04	2005	2006-10	2011-15
Average	7.3	0.6	-2.0	4.3	3.3

*Source: Bank of Guyana Annual Reports.*

Economic activity contracted by 1.7 percent in 1998, and averaged 0.6 percent for the seven year period 1998-2004. Economic growth contracted again in 2005, by 1.95 percent, as a result of the flood which affected much of the coastlands in the early part of the year. Growth averaged 4.3 percent in the five-year period 2006-2010 and 3.3 percent in 2011-15.

The obvious question which arises from this data is why should a government which is enjoying a healthy ten-year run of economic growth suddenly suspend its administration, and then go on lose a national election? This has been the focus of my letters, and among the primary reasons are that the PPP's 23-year run in office was tarnished by its failure to address Guyana's latent welfare issues, amidst numerous charges of corruption and misappropriation of taxpayers' money.

Indeed, corruption had become institutionalized under the PPP government as it stalled the establishment of the Public Procurement Commission responsible for the oversight of the issuance of government contracts. Overpricing and mismanagement of government contracts which resulted in additional charges to government accounts featured heavily, the instance involving toilet

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix I.

## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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bowls being purchased at a cost of in excess of US\$2,000 or more than G\$400,000 per unit for the CJIA Project standing out notoriously<sup>2</sup>.

Corruption touched nearly all aspects of the PPP's government, reaching into organizations like the Guyana Rice Producers Association and Guyana Rice Development Board. This resulted in rice farmers being robbed as they were consistently underpaid for their paddy, and in many instances payments were delayed to such an extent that the farmers encountered severe financial problems. Charges of misappropriation of monies at GRDB were subsequently raised<sup>3</sup>.

The scale of misappropriation of taxpayers' money during the PPP administration reached unprecedented proportions with the construction of the Marriott Hotel through NICIL.

NICIL was created in 1990 under the Companies Act to hold and manage the assets of the government. Its existence was founded in an understanding between the government of Guyana and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in which it had the principal role of divesting the productive assets of government acquired via nationalization. This was instrumental to returning Guyana to a market-based economy.<sup>4</sup>

The PPP administration's decision to use NICIL's assets, which are property of the state, to invest in productive ventures such as the Marriott project under the guise of boosting economic activity was a clear indication that the organization's role within the PPP administration now represented a contradiction of its original purpose and function.

This action by government represented an injection of anti-competitive forces in the economy, and increased the element of risk to both local and international investors considering their options in Guyana.

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<sup>2</sup> *Kaieteur News - Govt Defends \$424,000 Toilet Bowls For CJIA; July 04, 2013.*

<sup>3</sup> *Kaieteur News - Govt Orders Audit Into GRDB; June 24, 2015.*

<sup>4</sup> *Stabroek News - NICIL Examined; April 5, 2015.*



Further concerns about NICIL stemmed from it being used as a vehicle to transfer public/state assets to the PPP's elite business alliances.<sup>5</sup> The organization needs to redirect its efforts to its original purpose of winding up the operations of government in the economy's productive sectors by speedily executing the privation of all such companies under its administration.

Additionally, funds from the National Insurance Scheme also found their way into financing the construction of the Berbice Bridge<sup>6</sup>, while another five billion dollars were squirreled out of the country through CLICO<sup>7</sup>. It has been observed that the NIS may have to be bailed out by the Consolidated Fund, having become the victim of collateral damage from the poorly thought out financing arrangement for the Bridge.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, there seemed no act involving misappropriation of taxpayers' money which could not be executed by the PPP administration under the able advice of the former Chairman of NICIL.

In retrospect, notwithstanding the EU's decision to proceed with a reduction in prices paid to sugar producers from the ACP countries of which Guyana was a member, the successive administrations of the PPP could be considered the architects of the destruction of GUYSUCO and the dissemination of its sugar workers and their families. Guyana's management team at the time, apparently becoming experts on the sugar industry over the years, had found fault with the corporation's expatriate managers and released them from their contract. The EU's decision in 2006<sup>9</sup> cast a long shadow over the long term well-being of the industry, and the fate of the controversial US\$200 million Skeldon sugar factory<sup>10</sup> which was

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<sup>5</sup> *Kaieteur News - NICIL transfers public property to PM, Queens Atlantic, 28 others; Jan 23, 2011; Kaieteur News - NICIL pussyfooting on retrieving lands gifted to China Railway; Mar 01, 2017;*

<sup>6</sup> *Kaieteur News - The Berbice Bridge/Takeover; November 08, 2013.*

<sup>7</sup> *Stabroek News - Cabinet Ordered NIS Investment In Berbice Bridge; May 06, 2016.*

<sup>8</sup> *Stabroek News - The Berbice River Bridge Fiasco; September 07, 2015.*

<sup>9</sup> *Stabroek News - Reports on the state of the Sugar Industry Disquieting – EU Ambassador; December 27, 2009.*

<sup>10</sup> *Stabroek News - Govt mulling sale of Skeldon Estate – Thomas; November 13, 2016.*

commissioned in 2008, now seemed bleaker even as the factory itself suffered more than a few hiccups.

The general welfare of the population continued to drag alongside the unexplained expansion in wealth of some members of society. Notwithstanding the absence of official information on the subject, the perceived persistently high rate of unemployment weighed heavily, and public services in health and education suffered tremendously. Significant numbers of maternal and infant deaths were reported, with the circumstances seeming cruel and meaningless in some instances. Public servants, after the bitter 57-day strike in 1999<sup>11</sup>, resigned themselves to government's average annual 5 percent salary increase from 2002. Persistently high unemployment<sup>12</sup> and government's lax policing of labor relations contributed to significantly more depressed earnings for junior and supervisory staff in some sections of the private sector.

Concerns in the international community had been continually expressed regarding the PPP administration which allowed Guyana to be used as a transshipment point in the narcotics trade and in facilitating money laundering<sup>13</sup>. While playing a lesser role, the administration also had in its baggage ties, which it continues to deny, to a known drug lord<sup>14</sup>, who was fingered as the leader of a death squad which engaged in murder and mayhem until his capture in Suriname in 2006. Many of the crimes committed during this drug lord's reign remain unsolved today.

Overarching all of this, a former president during the PPP's reign<sup>15</sup> had managed to build an economic power structure across the majority of the economy which had never before been placed in context.

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<sup>11</sup> *Stabroek News* - Many 1999 Strike Issues Still Unresolved; Feb 11, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> *Stabroek News* - Youth unemployment in Guyana around 40% – CDB; May 22, 2015.

<sup>13</sup> *Stabroek News* - Drug Traffickers Have Guyana In Their Sights – US State Department, March 04, 2003. <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/guyana/sights.htm>

<sup>14</sup> *Stabroek News* - Shaheed 'Roger' Khan: Drugs, Dirty Money & The Death Squad; August 20, 2009.

<sup>15</sup> *Kaieteur News* - Perspective on Jagdeconomics'; Nov 5, 2015.

Major constraints at the time were an apparently insufficient grasp of our fundamental economic problems and the role the PPP administration played in maintaining Guyana in a state of arrested development.

Things came to a head with the 2014 Budget when the then Opposition APNU and AFC parties combined forces to put a major dent in the budget. Major sticking points included amounts scheduled for expenditure on the Amaila Falls Hydro Power Project. Budget issues were further exacerbated when the Ministry of Finance proceeded to disburse monies for projects within the 2014 budget specifically disapproved by parliament<sup>16</sup>.

The Opposition parties were happy to hand the government a no-confidence motion by the end of 2014, but this was averted by the President proroguing parliament indefinitely<sup>17</sup>, the intention apparently being to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution on the way forward through extra-Parliamentary dialogue. This failed.

Finally faced with an early election in 2015, I initiated contact with the then campaign manager of the PNCR at Congress Place late in 2014 to discuss the possibility of APNU forming a coalition with the AFC. Although initial thinking in this direction was not on the cards, I indicated that this was the only viable route to ousting the PPP. The idea required political support in the national domain and was broached in the press to stimulate discussion.

The AFC for its part had to contend with suspicion from break-away PPP supporters who could not countenance an alliance with APNU under any circumstances. Early in 2015 I commented on a Facebook post where I noticed Mr. Nagamootoo was active and observed that the coalition was indeed the right choice because the size of the APNU was such that the merging of the two parties represented a perfect match to form a full government ready at the get-go to immediately administer the country's affairs with the outcome of

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<sup>16</sup> *Stabroek News - Govt Gets Time To Answer Request For Order To Stop Unapproved Spending; December 16, 2014.*

<sup>17</sup> *Stabroek News - President Issues Proclamation To Prorogue Parliament – Speaker; November 10, 2014.*

election results. Mr. Nagamootoo just needed to sell this to his constituents with the promise to negotiate a strong position with the APNU in the coalition talks.

As time to the elections elapsed, I emailed the Bank for International Settlements, the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Caribbean Development Bank to ask that they suspend financial relations with the PPP administration. The United States Drug Enforcement Authority and Interpol were also contacted to seek assistance in shutting down the financial activities of the PPP administration.

Letters to President Barack Obama of the United States of America and Prime Minister David Cameron had also been dispatched to solicit the assistance of their governments in helping to resolve our crisis.

The results of the 2015 national elections are now a matter of history.

## 2020 AND BEYOND - JUSTIFICATION BY CONSENT

*'A Nation Which Fails To Defend Its Democracy, The Human Rights Of Its Citizens, Consents To, And Justifies The Abuses Of Its Government.'* – Craig Sylvester.

Bringing Guyana into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, unleashing its potential, necessarily involves devising a strategy which places its problems within some manageable perspective. In this regard, Guyana's social and economic problems are best viewed within a historical context to maintain cognizance of the progress achieved. This reinforces the realization that our problems are transitory, and regardless of strongly held positions, consideration and compromise have to be extended to move Guyana forward.

Two of my more recent letters to the press had strongly advocated for a re-examination of the Coalition's stance on a number of issues<sup>18</sup>. These were:

- Much better proposals to address issues involving the Stabroek Market Vendors,
- The VAT proposals in the 2017 Budget,
- The unresolved issues within the sugar industry,
- Engagement of the Private Sector as a partner in the modelling of plans for economic development,
- The establishment of a council of economic advisors charged with providing greater depth and perspective on policies for growth,
- Greater political consideration of the outcome of decisions affecting major stakeholders.

One of the more confounding positions of the Coalition since its installation was that it condoned the trampling of the lives and welfare of the Stabroek Market vendors by the Georgetown Mayor

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<sup>18</sup> *Kaieteur News - The PNC Needs To Rethink Its Strategies To Remain Relevant; Dec 23, 2016. Stabroek News - There Should Be Greater Consideration For Political Implications Of Decisions On VAT And Sugar; Mar 06, 2017.*

& City Council.<sup>19</sup> This, when their major stakeholder, the PNCR, was widely responsible for people leaving their jobs in the eighties to become traders and vendors as a result of the PNC's inane policies at the time.

While there is no question that the Stabroek Market area was in dire need of a face lift, the vendors' abrupt relocation in the absence of any clear long-term solution was hardly an appropriate course of action. An obvious explanation to what happened would be that the Coalition administration did not comprehend their complicity and responsibility for the Stabroek Market vendors being there in the first place.

Another serious issue not explicitly addressed was the apparent retraction of the Coalition's commitment to job creation on the campaign trail. This reversal in policy was initially presented rather circuitously by President Granger himself since September 2015 while on a tour in the hinterland when he presented the notion of entrepreneurship as a means of earning a living<sup>20</sup>.

The idea was subsequently reinforced by the President himself<sup>21</sup> declaring that, "entrepreneurship will build this economy, not wage labour." He more boldly declared that, "The government doesn't have jobs to give out and as such is moving to encourage entrepreneurship, where people create job opportunities for themselves," and went on to say that, "We need to change from the mindset that government owes people employment and create in the minds of young people the desire to go out there and work and do well...".

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<sup>19</sup> *Stabroek News - Vendors protest relocation from Stabroek Market square; Apr 30, 2016. Kaieteur News - President Granger urges swift relocation of Stabroek vendors; May 07, 2017.*

<sup>20</sup> *Guyana Chronicle - Granger wants stronger education system –pushes for more entrepreneurship in hinterlands; Sept 15, 2015.*

<sup>21</sup> *Guyana Chronicle - Guyana needs more entrepreneurs – Granger; Nov 02, 2015. Stabroek News - Entrepreneurship will create jobs – Granger; May 08, 2016. Guyana Chronicle – Granger Eyes More Entrepreneurship Schemes; Aug 20, 2016.*

The state-owned Guyana Chronicle recently ran an article supporting cooperativism as the engine of economic growth<sup>22</sup>. While there can be no dispute about the benefits of cooperatives to societies, these need to be considered complementary in any model where the mainstream corporate sector owns and controls the majority of resources.

The Coalition's drastic shift in policy on unemployment, the adoption of obvious welfare-retarding policies such as the application of VAT on basic items, and government's seemingly entrenched face-off with Guyana's principal corporate representatives underscore the grave problems at the core of the Coalition's policy framework.

My discussions with another senior member of the PNC at Congress Place prior to the 2015 national elections revealed that the old members of the PNC still embrace some of Burnham's socialist styled ideas of development. The Coalition administration's own revealed policy preferences leaves one to conclude that with its disregard for the business community at the policy level, politicized as this may be, the Coalition is very much influenced by thinking at Congress Place intent on seeking to have Burnham's ideas of political and economic control resurrected and reinstated at the center of Guyana's national policy framework.

Returning to Burnham's ideas was never even remotely considered in the policy options of the Coalition administration leading up to the 2015 national elections, and conceptually represents a deviation and reversal on the Coalition's major policy proposals. Burnham's ideas, well-intentioned though they were, failed, and will fail again.

The administration's first venture into what was clearly a waste of taxpayers' money took a hard landing as the media unearthed the scam initiated by the Coalition itself without the oversight of regular tender and procurement procedures. Under this arrangement the businessman, with no prior experience in the provision of bond storage facilities for pharmaceutical purposes, was to be paid \$450

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<sup>22</sup> *Guyana Chronicle - Cooperative as an engine of growth; Mar 22, 2017.*

million over a three-year period for bond space for drugs. This, when more than adequate facilities were already owned by government and available for such a purpose<sup>23</sup>. ‘According to the minister there was no public tendering because it “was an emergency.” He said the company’s facility was PAHO/WHO approved, but no certification was given by the named international agency since that is not its mandate.’<sup>24</sup>

The latest incident surrounded the replacement Health Minister intervening in the procurement process for drugs for the Georgetown Public Hospital to have the National Procurement and Tender Board Authority approve payment for a contract which was clearly in violation of standard procurement procedures under the pretext of an ‘emergency drug shortage’<sup>25</sup>.

Corruption had been a great drain on Guyana’s financial and natural resources under the PPP, and its continuation under the Coalition administration was not something the Guyanese public bargained for with the change of government in 2015.

The Coalition’s elitist mentality was demonstrated in it securing Burnham’s son-in-law as the chief executive officer of Guyana Water Inc. within the first six months of the Coalition’s installation<sup>26</sup>, and President Granger’s son-in-law as the Minister of Business. Guyana Water Inc.’s new CEO’s performance was such that it could only be condoned by someone who held him above the law. The then newly installed chairman resigned shortly after. Stabroek News had subsequently been able to determine political interference on the part of the Coalition administration.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> *Stabroek News - Bond scandal; August 15, 2016. Stabroek News - Apology from Norton not enough – Goolsarran; Aug 26, 2016.*

<sup>24</sup> *Stabroek News - Norton grilled over sole-sourced drug bond contract; August 09, 2016.*

<sup>25</sup> *Stabroek News - Emergency \$605m drug purchase not transparent – TIGI official; March 17, 2017; Stabroek News - Emergency procurement of \$605m in drugs; March 13, 2017.*

<sup>26</sup> *Stabroek News - Richard Van West-Charles new GWI CEO; Oct 05, 2015.*

<sup>27</sup> *Stabroek News - GWI Chairman Resigns; Oct 08, 2016.*



Comparable events in the PPP administration were the former president's children being given high profile jobs<sup>28</sup>, and the former PPP general secretary's daughter<sup>29</sup> with no apparent credentials being installed on the Party's slate to contest the 2015 elections.

President Granger has also favored installing aged gentlemen of the Guyana Defense Force into senior positions across the public service. In one instance, a former GDF Chief of Staff and Rear Admiral was granted the opportunity to strut his stuff on President Granger's Green Economy as Presidential Advisor on the Environment<sup>30</sup>, an area quite unrelated to his prior expertise, except probably that he ran through the jungle with his fellow soldiers. The President's obvious concern for these gentlemen of his former place of employment could be justly extended to all of Guyana's seniors by granting them substantial increases in their pensions. This was apparently not his line of thinking.

Given President Granger's own involvement in the 1973 vote-rigging as one of Burnham's confidants<sup>31</sup>, one would be given to wonder about the President's moves come 2020 in light of his administration's willful and continued failure to adopt policies to lift Guyana's welfare, most likely to see his administration taking a roasting in 2020.

His observed cool, calm and collected demeanor during the PNCR's 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congress, which embraced such a level of coordinated incompetence in the administration of its highly suspect biennial election as to be nothing short of deliberate, makes it difficult to refute any claims that he was fully aware of what was transpiring at

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<sup>28</sup> *Kaieteur News - Questionable qualifications, mismanagement causes removal of E-Governance Head – Harmon; Jul 30, 2015. Kaieteur News - Lisa Ramotar hired as Gold Board's new GM; Jan 03, 2015.*

<sup>29</sup> *Kaieteur News - Rohee ignores concerns about daughter's role in promoting racism; Aug 14, 2015.*

<sup>30</sup> *Stabroek News - Green economy will drive future development; Oct 31, 2015.*

<sup>31</sup> *Guyana Chronicle - The problem with David Granger's victory; Mar 02, 2011. Kaieteur News - If David Granger played no part in the 1973 rigged elections let him refute Harripaul's account; March 07, 2011. Stabroek News – More WikiLeaks revelations... US diplomats saw 1973 general elections as 'blatantly rigged'; Nov 15, 2015.*

the time.<sup>32</sup> The Party's 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congress was hampered by similar issues which saw only fifteen per cent, or one hundred and twenty out of roughly eight hundred delegates, voting late to determine the composition of the Party's Central Executive Committee.<sup>33</sup>

One of the key problems during the 1973 vote-rigging, which is instructive, was that the persons stuffing the ballot boxes with bogus votes were told to stop thieving<sup>34</sup> long after they should have done so, the resulting landslide becoming so lopsided as to be unbelievable. Additionally, as if to speak to what is transpiring today regarding the Coalition's stance on the sugar industry, a June 27, 1974 US diplomatic cable noted that President Granger, a Major in the army at the time, and a counterpart of his, had reputations "as ideologues and anti-East Indian racists."<sup>35</sup>

After fifty years of independence, Guyana is in a political and economic crisis, and we as a people have to decide if we just go with the flow and have the PPP back in office in 2020.

Moving successfully to address Guyana's political and economic problems requires initial attention in three directions. First, supporters of the PPP need to be provided an alternative to the this party, since there is ample evidence in the public domain of the PPP administration soliciting the services of, and being in league with individuals involved in the narcotics trade, money laundering and murder.<sup>36</sup> Recognizing this party and having it back in power in 2020 provides justification for whatever abuses it subsequently metes out during its course of government.

Secondly, sugar workers need to seriously examine the benefits of working in the sugar industry. They need to examine if being a sugar worker qualifies as a successful career, whether it is something they

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<sup>32</sup> *Stabroek News – Editorial: Biennial Congress; Aug 03, 2014.*

<sup>33</sup> *Stabroek News – Corbin, Green on Central Executive; Aug 09, 2012.*

<sup>34</sup> *Guyanese jargon.*

<sup>35</sup> *Stabroek News - WikiLeaks... US cable assessed Granger...; November 15, 2015.*

<sup>36</sup> *Stabroek News - Shaheed 'Roger' Khan: Drugs, Dirty Money & The Death Squad; August 20, 2009.*

are happy spending their lives doing, and whether it is something in which they would have their children and future generations involved.

Do sugar workers enjoy job security, upward mobility and adequate incomes to buy a home, car, take care of the family and send children to university? Because if they do, then fine. If not, then sugar workers need to explore other gainful opportunities for earning an income.

Although these questions are very relevant to other jobs and industries, sugar workers and their families especially have borne the brunt of much political manipulation by the Peoples Progressive Party at the expense of their welfares, and they need to be treated more fairly.

It goes without saying that diversification of GUYSUCO had been on the cards since in the 1980s. Although this was suspended by the World Bank/IMF under a terms of agreement to accommodate for the rehabilitation of the sugar industry and allow the corporation to refocus on its main product<sup>37</sup>, the EU's intent to cut sugar prices in 2006 should have resulted in a rethink of the industry's future at the time.

The corporation's now apparent complete failure can very probably be tied to the former President's disdain and disregard for professional advice<sup>38</sup> leading him to choose a company with no experience in building state-of-the art sugar factories for the Skeldon Estate<sup>39</sup>. His willingness to disregard what was then widely considered as the inevitable beginning of the end of sugar at the time, was a calculated effort to keep the sugar workers employed for political gain. The results of this are now available for all to see, with probably the only thing of benefit to sugar workers being what they will be able to negotiate with the corporation as their turn comes around.

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<sup>37</sup> *Stabroek News* - World Bank/IMF required GUYSUCO to terminate the original diversification program; Aug 11, 2015.

<sup>38</sup> *Kaieteur News* - Jagdeo should be living in jail for Skeldon factory; March 31, 2015.

<sup>39</sup> *Kaieteur News* - Jagdeo bypassed experienced Indian firm for Chinese; April 07, 2015.

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In regard to whether or not the sugar industry should have been closed or diversified in the first instance, this question was answered a long time ago, but the PPP willfully committed to maintain it for political ends.

Sugar workers would do well to remember that the PPP's fear of losing their votes caused them to maintain the industry at all costs. Had they decided to close or diversify it at the time, sugar workers would probably have been able to receive much better compensation than now available from the corporation. This said, it is nevertheless incumbent upon government to ensure that all sugar workers receive a fair compensation package which could include either: (1) Land plus a one-time grant, (2) Land plus a grant plus monthly, quarterly or semi-annually payments for one year, or (3) Other appropriately designed financial package excluding land.

The Coalition's recent move to privatize<sup>40</sup> GUYSUCO is clearly an attempt to absolve the government of any financial responsibility in regard to the fair treatment of sugar workers upon the corporation's eventual closure or diversification. This speaks sorely to and justifies the sugar workers' suspicion of the Coalition going into the 2015 national elections.

Finally, any strategy for moving Guyana forward must necessarily recognize that both the PPP and Coalition administrations have breached their contracts with the Guyanese people by failing to successfully address our political and economic problems. Their socialist styled guiding philosophies which embrace corruption, politicization of relations with, and marginalizing/ controlling the private sector, and elitism have been tried, and both have failed. Both have demonstrated that they are incapable of governing an intelligent population and effectively administering Guyana's economic affairs. Both present a clear and present danger to Guyana's future development prospects.

Their collective failures have however created a great political vacuum for new young talent to forge a new political dispensation

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<sup>40</sup> *Kaieteur News - Govt. contracts former shipping PR to sell GUYSUCO; June 18, 2017.*

to move Guyana forward. This knowledge forms the basis, the impetus for a new thrust to reform Guyana's national politics, creating at least one new political party armed with the vision, philosophy and intellectual and professional muscle to effectively deliver on the mandate of forming a government committed to sound ethics and governance procedures, and more importantly, our desires for better living standards and welfare growth. As our past has demonstrated, the costs of having either the PPP or the Coalition in government will be severe.

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## **SECTION I – LETTERS**

## 1. PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE GROSSLY UNDERPAID

Stabroek News || September 5, 2013.

Dear Editor,

I write to address once again the sore issue of the grossly underpaid state of teachers in particular, and public servants generally. The subject has been a bone of contention for close to a generation now, and is one which I am sure all public servants think deserves more attention than it has been given in recent times.

It has to be given this attention now because the time has come for Guyanese to free themselves of the blind acceptance of the propaganda of the PPP administration. A larger proportion of Guyanese are now more educated than before at the tertiary level. We are tomorrow's leaders and we need to make it our God-given responsibility to analyze and discuss issues of national importance more objectively to resolve the deep economic and social problems faced by the wider society.

I shall not belabor readers with statistics on incomes and expenditures, but wish to bring to the fore the deep and pervasive poverty and societal ills entrenched within the ranks of public servants. I do this because public servants form a significant proportion of the population and are essentially the primary organs of the economy. Failure of any one of these is liable to have cascading undesirable effects across the entire economy. This in itself speaks to the value of public servants' service to the nation.

What I do know is that this letter will be but a drop in the ocean, but the mantra I offer all labor unions and relevant parties across Guyana is this: Public servants are subsidizing government's services to businesses and the wider population.

Public servants are supposed to receive compensation which allows them to live comfortably regardless of the nature of their job. If for example, a public servant delivers a service valued at \$150,000/month, but is only paid \$50,000/month, that public



servant is providing a subsidized service to the government. That is, by underpaying the public servant by \$100,000/month, or \$1.2 million/annum, the government and general public are receiving a subsidized service.

When public servants have to beg, borrow, get a second job at the expense of their children's welfare, live in mommy's and daddy's home way past adult age, put up with other awkward domestic circumstances, etc., they are subsidizing government's services to businesses and the wider population. My father as a headmaster and education officer subsidized services to the population.

All teachers and the rest of the public servants, from the nurses to our policemen and women whom we love to publicly castigate for taking bribes, are subsidizing government services to the population. It is not that our police are born scamps or crooked cops, it's just that taking a bribe or engaging in other corrupt practices are just another means of providing the basic necessities for their families and homes. I don't condone bribery, but I am almost certain that if every police officer had a comfortable salary, the issue of bribery and corruption would very probably be scaled back to non-existence.

Public servants should not have to beg for a lunch, ask for a drop, pay short fare on the bus, engage in improper sexual relations for extra money, and whatever else you may care to add to the list.

They are valuable and important, and deserving of the acceptable standard of living of the next Joe. The fact is, public servants need a dramatic increase in wages and salaries to correct the injustice of their daily existence.

There has been talk in the past of not providing significant increases in wages to public servants for fear of causing inflation. The solution is simple: Advise the general public, particularly businesses, of any significant salary increase at least six months in advance to allow them to adjust their inventories, and spread the increase over an extended period if necessary, say 12 to 24 months, while taking care to adjust monetary policy appropriately. ++

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## 2. PERSPECTIVE ON 'JAGDEONOMICS'

Kaieteur News | November 5, 2013.

Dear Editor,

Sifting through the Kaieteur News' documentation of the former president's 'indiscretions' in its coverage of the 'The Heist of Guyana' recently, it dawned on me with perfect clarity the evolution and machinations of 'Jagdeonomics', and the seeming mess left behind for parliament to contend with. This I would like to share with my fellow Guyanese so that we can be collectively aware of the challenges we face as a developing nation.

When the former president ascended to the presidency, he had already been involved in transforming Guyana's economy into its present dilemma. Hoyte demitted office with the economy on track to becoming a mainly capitalist society with the privatization of the state-owned corporations and the other attendant measures typical of a free market economy.

Without a doubt, Guyana experienced strong growth as a result its return to free market economics, with the investment in Omai by Cambior being significant. Under Hoyte, Guyana was 'open for business,' as he recognized that Guyana desperately needed international investment and international investor confidence to kick-start the economy and bring it back on track.

In short, (as is widely acknowledged) all the other measures adopted by Hoyte under the IMF's Structural Adjustment Policies (SAP and its successors) in the reversion to free market economics were responsible for the strong growth achieved in the years subsequent to Hoyte's exit from office. (Admittedly, a number of these, the return to market exchange rates for example, which triggered the severe bouts of inflation in the nineties resulted in intense economic hardships for much of the population. Nevertheless, SIMAP had been established and it did its best to ameliorate the impact of the adjustment policies on the wider society).

What happened when the PPP came into government was that it recognized that Guyana had been bound to the Structural Adjustment framework policies agreed to with the IMF and realized that there was very little it could do without raising concerns from Guyana's international financial partners.

While parroting capitalism to the international community and the public, the PPP privately clung to its socialist/communist dogma. The PPP did its best to control private sector investment, as evidenced from the poor numbers on international investment and the bureaucratic foot-dragging of GO-Invest. Instead of being an open channel for investment, GO-Invest became a bottleneck and a means of controlling/limiting foreign/private sector investment in Guyana.

Under socialism, private entrepreneurship and ownership is inimical to the wider society. And so Guyana continued for about a decade or so with poor investment from both local and foreign players, with the consequential return of comparatively poor economic growth in the late nineties to about the middle of the last decade.

As a socialist economist, the former president recognized that there was nothing to be done about the private sector he literally grew up with, so he sought to control it and bend it to accomplish his grand ideas. The privatization process, which removed production from state control, opposed to his socialist economics, turned out to be a blessing in disguise for him, since with the creation of NICIL, the money from the sale of all of the state public companies and other assets fell under his control.

He surely must have been gleeful about the entire affair, since through the Chairman of NICIL, his perfect stamp, he waved his hand and did whatever he cared with the state's, and taxpayers' money. Of course, this was all 'for the good of the country' (Jagdeconomics). The Low Carbon Development Strategy was a fine idea indeed. In fact it was a masterpiece in economics aimed at getting foreign finance while strangling private sector initiative in the background. The gentleman was nevertheless rightly credited with at least one honorary doctorate for his efforts.

The former president had transformed himself into a true autocrat, with complete authority of Guyana's economic and judicial framework. While there was a law and economics for the general population, there was also his law and his economics which superseded everything else. This was characterized by the pardoned atrocities of some of his notorious acolytes, who remain above the law, and on the other hand, powerful men like those who require no identification, who own and control large businesses across various sectors of the economy.

This is the true exercise of the former president's authority over Guyana. He has established powerful economic players with strong financial relationships and his (and our) more embarrassing public officials are above the law.

It is in this context we need to acknowledge the magnitude, dimension and partiality of his authority and power across Guyana's judiciary and economy, and recognize that his machinations and ideas are not conducive to real prosperity for all Guyanese, but in fact channel wealth into the hands of his select few. ++

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### **3. THE ROLE OF THE PPP PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS TO LEGITIMIZE THESE MONEY-RAKING SCHEMES<sup>41</sup>**

Kaieteur News || January 10, 2014.

Dear Editor,

I write to, among other things, register my objection to the use of the word 'government' in the local press to describe the source of the dense, intellectually stultifying utterances of the Head of the Presidential Secretariat whenever he finds occasion to present himself before the public. The PPP, for its part, is not a government.

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<sup>41</sup> *Kaieteur News - Dr. Luncheon's Role is to lend legitimacy to these money-raking schemes; Jan 10, 2014.*

It has shown that it not a government at all, but in fact, has transformed itself into puppets to the now publicly acknowledged cabal of politicians and businessmen intent on enriching themselves through the corrupt and deceitful practices with which we are now so familiar.

The role of the PPP propaganda machine is to lend an air of legitimacy to these money-raking schemes while projecting the appearance that there is a government in place with the peoples' interests and welfare at heart. The PPP has shown that it has little real interest in our general welfare. It has trampled underfoot public servants' rights by callously disregarding their opinions for better welfare by unilaterally issuing the wholly inadequate 5% increase in public sector wages. It has issued house lots to poor people, in many cases, sending them to locations so far away from their places of employment that these people are now poorer with their new homes because of higher transportation costs and reduced family time. And it is not a case where these people can find jobs any closer to their homes, since there are no businesses any closer to their homes.

Recently, the government declared that Guyana has enjoyed 5% growth, and one can imagine, patted itself on the back. I would like to give the PPP the opportunity to respond to the following questions: How many employable bright Guyanese continue to leave our shores every year in search for a life that PPP have been unable to provide for them? How many jobs has it created during the two decades or so since it has been in power? After this enormous lapse in time, how many large new companies do we see through the length and breadth of our country? How many sugar workers have been displaced through woeful mismanagement and misdirection at GUYSUCO? Why has the unemployment issue not been addressed more clinically by first producing statistics on employment in all of our ten regions?

The answer to the last question is that it would tell the plain, painful truth, that a large percentage of our employable Guyanese men and women are either unemployed or under-employed.

The PPP have done absolutely nothing to radically address these sore, latent issues, which are a major cause of crime, from robbery and murder, to the nasty spates of domestic violence that permeate our society. Make no mistake about it, large sections of Guyanese society live under intense stress caused by an inability to provide enough for their homes.

The Opposition, which constitutes the majority representation of the people, recently informed the public that the PPP has blatantly ignored it in the preparation of the 2014 budget. This apparently with the obvious intent of pushing through those fat, soup-distributing projects which give kickbacks years down the line to its servants, friends and associates. Of course, this budget will probably be cast as another record-breaking (back-breaking for the man in the street) budget, designed to bring prosperity to all and sundry. The majority Opposition is therefore encouraged to be prepared to pare the budget of those familiar money-grabbing projects intent on siphoning off our resources to fatten the PPP's friends and associates.

Our Guyanese brothers and sisters who consider themselves PPP supporters should see for themselves what they and their children have suffered as a result of the PPP's dalliances and its busted projects. All of which, as I have said before, enrich only the few closely aligned and working for the so-called pet companies and businesses. The PPP is a most anti-democratic organization, a political machinery whose object is not to govern for the benefit of all, but to maintain power by brainwashing their supporters and whoever else would listen to their propaganda while fattening themselves.

The PPP's supporters must understand one thing: all of us, regardless of which party we support, want the same things. These are the ability to provide for ourselves and our families comfortably. We all want a government that is not intent on enriching itself through wasteful, corrupt projects with kickbacks; a government that recognizes our needs and mobilizes resources to address those needs. We want a government that is democratic, one that recognizes

that there is strength in diversity, one which allows freedom of the press, one that is not intent on brainwashing us with foolishness. These are what we want. These are what make us all Guyanese.

Let us free our minds of the cacophony of nonsense the PPP preaches to distract us from the real day-to-day issues and problems we face, which they haven't, and most likely will, never address. Because they are too busy enriching themselves.

The sooner we get these buffoons out of our lives the better. ++

#### **4. The PPP Has Stolen In Excess Of Two Decades From Us**

Kaieteur News || January 22, 2014.

Dear Editor,

Having served as an economist at the Bank of Guyana in the eight years to January 2008, many of the analyses and interpretations from the various reports by the Bank, including work which I privately pursued, have remained with me, so that my recent articles (KN Nov 05/13, KN Jan 10/14 & SN Jan 10/14) were written in broad sketches with minimal recourse to numbers, which tend to belabor readers.

This does not however restrict my engaging in social commentary on various topics for which statistical data are unavailable, which I consider of paramount concern to many Guyanese.

I wish to acknowledge the, at times empathetic, distilled thoughts of Dr. Clive Thomas, in particular, and also the contributions made by Mr. Granger, the Honorable Leader of the Opposition, in another section of the media (SN Jan 19, 2014). They have undoubtedly witnessed first-hand, more than myself, the extent and prevalence of poverty throughout Guyana.

I would like to pause to remind our readers of the deeply held sentiments of Dr. Clive Thomas regarding Guyana's thrust for a

better life for us all. It takes tremendous moral courage to step out of the secure role of a professional, to stand up and actively engage in political opposition with the government we should all be serving, to speak out against the social injustices and wanton corruption endemic in our society, to struggle with government to take that path which we should be taking, the one we know will lead to the fulfillment of our dreams as a nation where everyone has a fair share in the wealth, income and prosperity that we all strive for, versus the wanton (massive budgets are not the solution), self-serving ideas served annually as the national budget.

I imagine the difference between Dr. Thomas and the rest of Guyana's politicians is that while they all know that many things are wrong with how our country is run, only he knows the sure path to economic prosperity. We still have a chance to try his ideas. It sure beats reading how it should be accomplished.

The problem with previous national budgets was that none of them in a comprehensive, cohesive and structured manner addressed the basic questions that need to be answered. These are, very simply, higher incomes and jobs.

Our economic woes are the unfortunate outcome of the choices we have made at our general elections for the last two decades. The PPP's supporters allowed themselves to be blinkered and fed with the poison of race and ethnic fear of the PNC.

For this, the entire country has had to bear the strain of the PPP's seemingly limitless instances of corruption, from gross manipulation of the procedures for the issuance of government contracts for capital and other works which result in the reissuance of government contracts to the businesses of its cronies, who make a mess of projects which result in the waste of hundreds of millions, probably billions, of dollars, a lot which was borrowed and has to be repaid by us, to shoveling money to its friends and associates through over-priced projects, to controlling the media through grossly unfair, uncompetitive practices.



This latter tact is part and parcel of the PPP's brainwashing mechanism, its attempt to control what we think, which I have previously highlighted. The supporters of the PPP will not forget the mess made of GUYSUCO, and the economic chaos inflicted upon the families dependent upon the existence of GUYSUCO. One can hardly imagine the distress and suffering of the children of these families.

That GUYSUCO will very likely be wound up as a result of the PPP's failure to grasp, among other things, the tide of change which would have resulted from the EU's adjustments to its preferential arrangements, would be among the most unremarkable events in its tenure in government. What will happen to these families still remains to be answered.

Government's role is as a facilitator and promoter of economic growth, and as a provider of the necessary laws, accompanying regulation and judicial system to safeguard both the business environment and the general society.

Everyday Guyanese continue to look forward to more and better paying jobs while every day the PPP continues to feed its friends and associates. The PPP has stolen in excess of two decades from us. How many more years will we give up?

We look for a change. That change can only come from us. ++

## 5. Making The Change

Stabroek News || January 31, 2014.

Dear Editor,

Guyana is indebted to both the Stabroek News and Kaieteur News for their diligent, independent reporting, without which we surely would have been duped by the PPP.

A letter writer ('Dr. Thomas lacks the experience...'SN, Jan 28) and similar detractors should consider directing their attention to more

socially productive efforts, rather than engaging in unsound logic. They could for example, detail the PPP's mismanagement of GUYUSCO over the years, during the watch of various ministers of agriculture. Not to forget the decimation of the corporation's sugar workers by its moribund decisions. As of late there has been no disclosure (of which I am aware) which shows how many families and the number of children who have had their lives disrupted by the mangling of GUYUSCO's management and interference in the corporation from the PPP. These people continue to suffer in silence.

Then there is China<sup>42</sup>. (Not to be misinterpreted. I have no condescension for any race, and I love Chinese food.) Why has the PPP, after seeing the chaos wreaked upon Europe, America, and how many other countries by this country through the virtual indentureship of its people and the engagement in widely documented unfair trade practices, embarked on giving the Chinese virtually unfettered access to Guyana's markets? Is something wrong with the PPP? Are the businesses that are owned/operated by the Chinese nationals we see really privately owned, or are they funded by the Chinese government? This aside, Guyana's businesses have already begun to feel the squeeze. At the rate the Chinese are going, Guyana's commercial sector has about three to five years before we see some major closures/restructuring.

In the twenty odd years of government what has the PPP really done for our Amerindian peoples? Why do these people, whom our ancestors came and met, still have to be squabbling about land rights? Agreed, mining is important to our economic viability, but surely this could have been much better managed by the PPP government to avoid disagreements with our Amerindians, and the environmental degradation and abuses perpetrated on our Amerindian brothers and sisters. Included here are the contamination of the rivers and waterways which are an integral part

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<sup>42</sup> *The dynamics of China's economy have evolved considerably, with significant growth in private sector activity and higher wage rates. However, abuse of its labor force and government subsidies were part and parcel of it being able to produce goods far more cheaply than the rest of the world.*

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of the Amerindian way of life. We do not have to mix our coffee with silt, mercury, or human waste to get an idea of what I am talking about, not to mention all the other rubbish carelessly dumped into these waterways. Our Amerindian folk are marvels from history, equal to us in every respect. We do not need the police or constabulary to change our coarse treatment of their environment. We just do it ourselves. We wouldn't want anyone coming into our homes and making a mess of them.

Looking into the future, we can have a government which is committed to completely stamping out corruption. We can have a government focused on job creation and generating higher incomes, which will result from the increased demand for workers from a vibrant, growing private sector. Our small businesses and entrepreneurs will benefit from programs designed to generate success from these crucial sources of economic growth and employment opportunities.

We can have cheaper electricity with the implementation of a viable hydropower plant, or possibly through arrangements with Trinidad (I've seen something of this sort recently). Foreign corporations will flock to our shores to benefit from our vast resources and educated work force. We can have a Guyana where our foreign debt will be paid off and we can all live in prosperity. Our Amerindians will also have their rights as priority in their territories.

We can have a Guyana we can truly call paradise. One in which our grandparents, ourselves and our children, will be happy to spend our remaining days. We can have all of this. We just have to make that change. ++

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## **6. LET US ALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE OUR LIVES**

Kaieteur News | February 18, 2014.

Dear Editor,

Looking ahead, it seems unlikely that the PPP government, given that it did not actively engage the Opposition in the planning process of the 2014 budget, will present anything close to respectability for passage in Parliament. In the event that there will be a need to go to the polls for a referendum, with the formation of a new government, a number of important issues need to be clarified.

As Guyanese, we must understand that voting is a very serious matter which, as has been shown over the last twenty years, has lasting effects on our lives and those of our children. When we vote, we choose which government we think can deliver the best for us in all spheres of our lives.

The government we vote for should at least provide us with the following: The opportunity for better, higher paying jobs; increasing number of good jobs so that our children can find work when they graduate from school; a government whose officers and ministers are not looking to get rich with bribes and kickbacks off of every project designed to increase our welfare; a government which manages our taxpayer dollars properly, getting rid of contractors who make a mess of projects which result in the waste of hundreds of millions of our hard earned money. These, at least, are what the government we vote for should be capable of providing.

If the opportunity does present itself, let us tell our story at the polls by voting against the entrenched corruption of this government and the struggles they have forced us to endure, while they continue sucking this country with their underhanded dealings, expanding their properties and buying cars to their fancy, preaching that Guyanese should be satisfied with the pittance that they struggle with on a monthly basis.

Our politics has historically been tainted with charges of racial and political violence by the contending parties. It is important for our political parties to steer clear of these strategies going forward. Our parties need to be emboldened by the plan they have for Guyana, how it works, and where we fit in.

Let us all look forward to the opportunity to change our lives and those of our children this year at the polls. ++

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## 7. **RESHAPING OUR FUTURE**

Kaieteur News || February 27, 2014.

Dear Editor,

Throughout the PPP's reign in government there have been many calls for the prosecution of government officials suspected of corruption. There have even been comparisons of the stiff charges meted out for petty theft and other small crimes, while these corrupt officials – who receive handsome bribes, kickbacks from government projects and payoffs for other crimes of corruption which cannot be documented here – remain free and continue unrestricted in the misuse and abuse of their offices.

The logical question is: Why has the PPP continued to allow its corrupt, and in some instances, clearly incompetent government officers, to go unprosecuted and remain in office?

The answer is rare and surprising: Corruption is integral to the PPP's system of government, being part of the mechanism of how this country's socialist elite are compensated or rewarded for their 'great service' to this nation.

The PPP executive recognizes that some of its underlings and servants who engage in underhand dealings, are either incapable of managing on their government salaries, or are plainly intent on getting rich before they leave their offices. Since these socialist elite are not governed by society's laws, at least while the PPP remains in

government, they are free to reap their bounty by whatever means they find convenient. The word and meaning of ‘corruption’ is therefore taboo to the PPP, and it is of no effect to hold any discussion on corruption with that party.

With corruption and graft being acceptable, therefore, there will never be an end to instances of these crimes against the state under the PPP. Unless some extra-governmental organ is established with the mandate (for a start) to identify, organize and strengthen the country’s laws on corruption and government graft, and apply the full force of these laws to protect us, by identifying and prosecuting all instances of corruption going back to October 5, 1992.

While the PPP continues to enorge itself, its hapless intellectuals continue to maintain unfounded illusions and lies in the minds of whoever is gullible enough to believe their propaganda.

A contributor to the Letters Columns continues to write of ‘the PNC’s 28 years of dictatorship and mismanagement’, even after I explained (KNews, ‘Let us all look forward...’, Feb 18/14) that the hardships endured in the years prior to 1992 were primarily a result of the application of socialist economics, whose contemporary example can be found nowhere closer than the chaos and destruction being visited upon our neighbouring Venezuela under President Maduro’s socialist policies. ++

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## **8. POVERTY IS THE RESULT OF WEAK LEADERSHIP, AND A WICKED AND CORRUPT GOVT.**

Kaieteur News | April 15, 2014.

Dear Editor,

It seems that no feasibility study has yet been done to establish the Amaila Falls as a sustainable source of hydropower. Pictures have been taken which show that the volume of water flowing over the

Amaila Falls, without being placed under the microscope of an expert study, clearly demonstrates to any layman that there is no justification whatsoever for spending any amount of money on building a hydroelectric dam there.

Yet this Government has spent, continues to make provision for, and to spend – whether from borrowing or from our hard-earned taxpayer dollars – on a road which no one in Guyana has yet proven otherwise, that this road will lead nowhere but to a complete waste of our financial resources, and is essentially a means of enriching the government’s cronies and associates with our money.

Fraud, as defined at <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/fraud>, is “a false representation of a matter of fact—whether by words or by conduct, by false or misleading allegations, or by concealment of what should have been disclosed—that deceives and is intended to deceive another so that the individual will act upon it to her or his legal injury”.

I would like to contend that expenditures under this Amaila Falls project in the past, to the present, were, and are fraudulent. I further encourage our lawyers and economists to work together closely with the aim of recouping any and all expenditures under this line item in the government’s budget.

The Honorable David Granger said recently that “Poverty is not an act of God...” I would like to suggest an alternative completion of the thought as follows: *Poverty is not an act of God, but the result of weak leadership, and a wicked and corrupt government intent on stealing from and robbing the citizens of its country.* ++

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## 9. PUT AN END TO WHITE COLLAR CRIMINALITY IN GOVERNMENT

Kaieteur News | May 04, 2014.

Dear Editor,

With the passage of the 2014 Budget being a little more than two weeks ago, it is worthwhile to take stock of a number of issues.

The cutting of the budget represents a significant victory for Guyana and the Opposition, the APNU and the AFC. The Opposition have shown that they can indeed find common ground, that is, the repudiation of the injustice and abuse of power by the PPP, and the systematic gouging and waste of our financial resources.

Guyanese looking back in history with perfect hindsight will recognize the Honorable Mr. David Granger, Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan and Mr. Moses Nagamootoo as heroes in reshaping Guyana's economic and political landscape. The stiff-necked and unyielding integrity of both Mr. Ramjattan and Mr. Nagamootoo combined with the APNU to ensure that this generation will not be left to drag on a little more through the pages of history. I wish to recognize the contributions of these two gentlemen, in particular, and Mr. Granger, in staving off another massive waste of our financial resources this year, and, political differences aside, I hope my fellow Guyanese also take the time to reflect on this historic achievement. Surely, without the entrenched efforts of these two gentlemen, Guyana would have been set back another couple of years. The political differences between the APNU and the AFC have become a bit blurred to me.

I have in my earlier letters pointed out the waste of billions of dollars over the years by the PPP on shoddy and over-priced government contracts. Many of us are still trying to figure out is exactly by what means hundreds of millions of dollars were released for the Amaila Falls hydroelectric project, in the absence of a feasibility study. Now is the time, if any, for the Opposition to put an end to this kind of



high-handed nonsense by ensuring that no more money is released from Central Government until appropriate financial safeguards are adhered to. We also need to examine steps to recover those monies. There must be some international standard practice for handling this. We can no longer afford to sit or stand idly by and watch Government squandering our hard earned money. Whoever authorized and facilitated the release of monies spent to date on the Amaila Falls Project should be made accountable for this enormous financial waste. Parliament needs to put an end to white collar criminality in government.

On the issue of cheap electricity, what of ENMAN Services, Trinidad, which had submitted a proposal for the laying of cables from Trinidad to supply Guyana with power? Are they unwilling to pay a bribe (because if they are, they very probably are the company we are looking for)? The rate this company is offering to Guyanese is far cheaper than GPL's. If not them, then the issue of cheap electricity is still on the table.

Mr. Nagamootoo recently commented on the need to revisit among other things the distribution of broadcast licenses to the PPP's cronies. To the extent that the distribution of these assets was made in a manner not in keeping with internationally accepted competitive practices, then the licenses issued to the PPP's cronies granted by its Mafioso style directives need to be revoked, and all interested applicants be asked to reapply under appropriately revised guidelines.

The Guyana National Broadcast Authority is an industry regulator, not a political organ, and must be staffed by persons with the required expertise for implementing policy in this area. It needs to be reconstituted to rid itself of the indiscretions of the PPP's acolytes. Given that the industry is fledgling, then every attempt should be made to limit costs/taxes so that potential suppliers can enter with greater opportunity for success in the market. It goes without saying that Guyana will enjoy greater benefits the larger and more diverse the suppliers of radio/television services. ++

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## **10. WE HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT IS NO MORE GOVERNED BY OUR LAWS**

Kaiaeteur News | May 16, 2014.

Dear Editor,

The laws of a democracy are its foundation, and establish the principles which guide the conduct of its citizens with each other. 'Citizen' used here encompasses all the members of society, inclusive of institutions, agencies and organizations, from churches to businesses to government. These laws are handed down through generations, and are the means by which order is maintained in society. The trespass against a law has various responses which are dependent of the nature of the trespass. It can have as a consequence the necessity of having an informal conversation with a neighbor over a minor infraction to the more severe case of personal violation involving the loss of life, to crimes against the state which necessitate intervention by the court to deliver justice.

A crime against the state is an act which, in my opinion, deliberately violates the rights of the people of that state, thereby forcing that state to exist in a state of oppression, where there is a real reduction in the welfare of that state. While the trespass of laws between individuals, and by all organizations other than government, can find resolution in the courts, which are established and maintained by government, a democracy is presented with a much different scenario when the culprit is the government itself.

Given that the laws of a democracy are to be upheld and enforced by its government, and are its foundation and protection, then the willful violation and disregard of those laws by government constitute a crime against the state.

The disregard of one of society's laws, and the continuation of such an act, by its government, strikes at the foundation of a democracy. The breach of other laws by government destroys that foundation,

replacing it with 'the rule of the government,' meaning that society's laws cannot now protect them from the treachery of its government.

This, I submit, is the current state of affairs in Guyana. Over the last twenty-one years or so, our press has documented willful breaches and violations of the laws of Guyana by representatives of government, with no justice being served by the courts on the part of the victims. They are numberless to me, but the evidence of these crimes is available for any who cares to consider.

The disregard of a court order by Mrs. Janet Jagan constitutes a crime against the state; the suppression of the media by government is a crime against the state; the violence meted out to a member of society by a ranking government official who continues in his office without being brought to justice constitutes a crime against the state; the documented instances of corruption that has become lawful constitutes a crime against the state; the use of criminal elements to execute 'justice' during the mayhem at Buxton constitutes a crime against the state; the abuse of power by government to channel wealth (e.g. the selective distribution broadcast licenses and exorbitant charge for these or similar licenses) and marginalize sections of society constitutes a crime against the state; the willful disregard of an order of one of our highest governmental organs, Parliament, constitutes a crime against the state; the willful misuse, abuse, and waste of the resources of our people for which the government has responsibility by ranking government officials constitutes a crime against the state. The list can go on and on, but I leave that task to my learned friends in law and justice, whose mandate it is to protect us, who are more familiar than I with the transgressions of this government, to unreele.

We have on our hands in Guyana a situation where our government is no more governed by our laws. There needs to be a stronger effort in Parliament, the legal system and the wider society to put an end to instances of these crimes against our state and preserve our democracy. It is not something to be trifled with. ++

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## **11. THE PPP GOVERNMENT HAS WILLFULLY AND SPITEFULLY UNDERDEVELOPED THE NATION'S CAPITAL<sup>43</sup>**

Stabroek News | July 29, 2014.

Dear Editor,

While much has been written about Georgetown, its environs, and the causes of its putrid state, there is one little aspect that I feel needs to be highlighted and brought to our collective attention. Virtually all the blame for the state of Georgetown rests squarely on the PPP/C administration. Indeed, the citizens of Georgetown have been disenfranchised from a better life, inclusive of better jobs, because of the perverse mentality of the PPP/C.

Having been consistently rebuffed by its citizens, the PPP/C deliberately denied proper management to the city by not facilitating local government elections. It also pauperized the city council by not providing the needed financial support to ensure proper administration and maintenance of the city's surroundings. The deliberateness of the PPP's actions in degrading Georgetown's economic prospects is exemplified by the fact that it denied the Georgetown Mayor & City Council the right to introduce the current lottery system as a means of raising funds to finance its operations. Use of the lottery for this purpose was an idea of the city council itself, and was naturally a more appealing way to raise money, versus raising property taxes and implementing all kinds of punitive license fees on Georgetown's citizens.

After denying the council the right to run a lottery, the government subsequently implemented the lottery itself, stymieing the council's access to much needed finances. This is another example of the government misusing its authority to oppress Guyanese. In the twenty-plus years which have passed, Georgetown could have been

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<sup>43</sup> Printed under the title, 'The city council not the government first wanted a lottery'

developed into a beautiful modern city teeming with tourists and popular the world over. This, among other wonderful things, Guyana has forfeited under the current administration. ++

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## **12. GUYANESE NEED TO DEVELOP A BETTER SENSE OF SELF**

Kaieteur News || July 29, 2014.

Dear Editor,

Having reviewed and analyzed countries' economic performances over a number of years, I have notionally juxtaposed them against Guyana in an attempt to determine what can be done to have this country perform as some of the better performers do. The ideas have been kept short for obvious reasons.

The super performers have:

1. A sound governance/legal system.
2. Systems in place to check corruption and bribery. (Corruption and bribery have been noted as the parasites that drain the lifeblood of an economy, something very much present in Guyana).
3. A solid democracy with freedom of the press as the order of the day.
4. Finally, and more relevant for us, their populations have a sense of self. Citizens generally know their rights and will stand up for them, even against government (this has obviously been developed over time).

My suggestion on this last bit is that we need a stronger definition of self than we already have. We must recognize that we are the kings and queens of our households and assets. This is in particular reference to our taxes that we 'pay'.

All of us would have a difficulty with someone coming into our homes and carrying away or destroying our property. Yet over the

years, we have consistently allowed government to waste our hard-earned tax dollars, which many of us have sacrificed a lot of our children's welfare to pay.

The taxes that we pay do not become government property, but in fact, represent assets that we have transferred to government to facilitate them expediting the development of our physical and social infrastructure. Therefore, when they spend money on busted and overpriced projects and give it away to their cronies through other underhanded dealings, they are wasting and stealing our money. It is the same when they write laws to legalize this wastage.

When they trample our right to consume information they encroach on our households. As a matter of fact, whenever government offends anyone without just cause it acts against the welfare of our households.

And this I submit is our biggest problem, and is something we need to put an end to. Guyanese simply have to develop a stronger sense of self and take a firmer stand against government to protect our rights and keep our money from being stolen/squandered. ++

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### **13. THE ECONOMICS OF THIEVERY... I WANT MY MONEY BACK!**

Kaieteur News | August 21, 2014.

Dear Editor,

A few readers of my last letter (KN Aug 17; SN Aug 18) may be surprised at the manner in which I summarily dispensed with Finance Minister's Half Year economic report for 2014. My analyses of Guyana's economic performance and its management have been captured in my letters to the press dating back to September of last year.

To summarize them all, the PPP's management of Guyana's economic framework has crossed the line where the rule of law is the guiding principle. Its decision-making is guided by the principle

of the preservation of its authority and the systematic branding of our psyche with its propaganda, the latter intent on obliterating the truth regarding its ultimate objective of pilfering and stealing Guyana's resources, taxes and otherwise, through its various methods. It is irrelevant to produce any 'sound' economic analysis of its 'numbers', since the economics practiced by this government is the economics of thievery.

To do otherwise is to lend credibility to government's activities, to void it of its white collar criminality, to deny and mislead the public, to say it is okay for the government to waste, misappropriate and steal our money and natural resources through its deliberate mismanagement of the issuance of Government contracts, its underhanded approval of investments across Guyana's economics sectors, and the abuse of its economic might to stifle the free press.

In fact, the highlighting of all aspects of corruption, mismanagement, and abuses of government authority and office is the soundest and most accurate evaluation necessary for addressing deficiencies in economic management. And in this, by my own biased estimate, I have been unflinching, and will be. Because the PPP intends to cuckold Guyana throughout its (the PPP's) entire existence, so that the Opposition's supporters, currently the majority of Guyanese, will always be marginalized in this, and their generations to come. Our future is in our hands.

I wish to express my sore dissatisfaction with the actions of the Minister of Finance and his Ministry, which have facilitated the outright loss of roughly \$4.5 billion of our money. Guyanese have sacrificed a lot to pay our taxes, and through the Opposition, we disapproved of this spending in the first place. I would like to go on record as saying that I want my money back. The Minister can be released from his duties if the consensus so rules, but I want my money back. ++

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## **14. A PROPOSAL ON WEALTH CREATION AND RECOVERY FOR GUYANA**

Kaieteur News | August 23, 2014.

Dear Editor,

A couple of years back I grappled with the problem of the erosion of wealth and incomes that resulted from depreciation and inflation in Guyana. I would like to share the following with the public – the business community in particular – to provoke thought in this direction.

Depreciation results from an excess demand for foreign currency in the financial markets. In Guyana this means that we are not generating the kind of foreign currency earnings to satisfy our demand for it. Logically then, we simply need to step up production and increase exports to facilitate an increased foreign currency inflow. Taking into account our natural increase in demand for foreign goods and services, consistent increases in foreign currency inflows in excess of this demand should naturally lead to higher levels of international reserves and stability of the exchange rate, a much sought-after target.

Extrapolating further, persistently higher international reserves will create a situation where Guyana's financial system is flush with foreign currency, the desirable consequence now being upward pressure on the value of the local currency. This should ultimately translate into downward pressure on prices as foreign exchange costs decline. The product markets are improved and the foreign exchange market has greater stability. With the continual increase in international reserves, the appreciation of the local currency should be entertained and carefully managed so as not to have a significant impact on the local currency value of exporters' receipts.

And this, I submit, is where I propose our economy should be. Here, our wealth has grown significantly as a result of a larger national output and higher export receipts, and our producers are



faced with a situation of declining local currency values from their exports. This I propose to be our ideal scenario, since at this point, businesses will now have to seek to maintain or increase profits by generating greater efficiencies in their entire operations, which, provided that they are significant, can now translate into reductions in the prices of their goods at the market, meaning that they are also increasing their competitiveness globally. And our consumers are the winners. ++

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## **15. GUYANESE DOSED WITH EMPTY PROMISES AND PROPAGANDA**

Stabroek News || September 13, 2014.

Dear Editor,

Having been systematically dosed with empty promises and propaganda which the government has used as a curtain for their double-dealing, Guyanese have been generally left not much better off after two decades of the PPP's government.

Public sector workers still grapple with depressed wages. They have been disenfranchised by government in addressing salary issues, with some charging that the Government has been able to buy off their union leaders.

The sugar industry is on the verge of collapse, thanks to the magical mastery of Government, with many sugar workers being displaced, and their families thrown into financial chaos.

A disproportionate share of our children leave school every year with less than acceptable grades, damaging their chances for success in our advancing technological environment.

The private sector has been effectively muzzled, having learnt from the hard experience of one of their stalwarts, the former broadcaster on the then popular television channel 28.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> *Stabroek News - Vieira sells VCT to Ramroop Group; June 05, 2009.*

Guyana has effectively become a Police State, whether we admit it or not.

In fact, the only section of Guyanese who cannot complain are the PPP and their Capitalist companies through whom the PPP intends to execute its master plan of development while lining their pockets thickly with our taxes.

Returning the PPP to Office would hand them the mandate to implement stronger Police State measures and strengthen their corruption systems. They will also have the mandate to get another parrot to replace the Head of the Presidential Secretariat to continue his great job of pulverizing the minds of the Guyanese public with their empty propaganda.

Guyanese have the opportunity to put an end to the rampant corruption and injustices being perpetrated against themselves and their children at this upcoming general election.

Guyanese, the supporters of the PPP in particular, need to wary of the lies and shallow scare tactics of the PPP. After more than two decades of living in the rough, Guyanese are still influenced by, and feed on the PPP's references to the 'dark days' of the PNC. As I have mentioned in previous letters, Guyanese would live in peace and harmony, except for the strife stirred up by reckless politicians.

Guyanese, if they thought for a moment and examined the real issues behind the PNC's administration more than two decades ago, would realize that it was the same PNC which recognized the weaknesses of Socialism implemented under Burnham, and worked with the IMF to restructure Guyana's economy, now recognized as a success in the international community.

More significantly, it was the PNC under the leadership of Desmond Hoyte which recognized '*the Will of the People*,' returning Guyana to true democracy in 1992, not the PPP.

Although Burnham's choice of socialism was unfortunate, two monuments to his commitment to Guyana's national development

and prosperity are the Linden highway, which has outlasted many of the roads built by the PPP, and the Demerara Harbour Bridge. ++

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## 16. CONSOLIDATING CRIMINALITY

Kaieteur News | November 05, 2014.

Dear Editor,

The government's history of corruption, its stance on the unauthorized expenditure of the Minister of Finance, its overt intervention in the affairs of Georgetown's City Council, its support of both the Commissioner General of GRA and the Attorney General in illegal and unlawful activities, both of which have been sanctioned by the PPP against Guyana's citizens, strips it of any legitimate claim to governance and government in Guyana. The current PPP administration is now a quasi-government, criminal organization intent on maintaining power by fooling the Guyanese public that they are the government.

The PPP is right now concerned with maintaining an image of legitimacy for its traditional supporters who still hope in them. Whether or not these supporters continue to extend same to the PPP does not in any way justify the clearly illegal and unlawful acts perpetrated by the PPP through its government officials on the people of Guyana. The issue of having these criminal acts brought before a court of justice in the present framework of the PPP's abuse of government's offices is clearly not possible.

The PPP's claim to legitimate government is now lost. The PPP is now a criminal organization intent on oppressing the people of Guyana for as long as we allow them. There is no court or law to which the PPP subscribes, so there is no court or law to which Guyanese can turn for justice.

Guyanese are therefore left to execute justice for themselves, without a court or law, except that which they hold in their mind to be fair and just. ++

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## **17. IN MEMORY OF MR. HUGH DESMOND HOYTE**

Kaieteur News || December 24, 2014.

**Dear Editor,**

December 22, 2014 marked the twelfth anniversary of the death of one of Guyana's Statesmen, Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte. Having so much to say and remember Mr. Hoyte for, I confine myself to the few following remarks, which I think summarize much of his impact on our social and economic well-being.

Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, the man whose commitment to Guyana's democratic ideals did not allow a contemplation of prorogue of the 1992 elections, but obeyed and ensured the voice and power of the People... the man whose achievements the PPP has systematically denied and sought to claim for themselves, who will forever remain an inconvenient truth to the People's Progressive Party... ++

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## **18. THE ELECTION IS NOT ABOUT WHO WILL BRING IN THE MOST VOTES, BUT WHO WILL BRING IN THE MOST ADDITIONAL VOTES**

Stabroek News || January 28, 2015.

**Dear Editor,**

In consideration of whether the APNU-AFC coalition should be led by either an APNU or AFC presidential candidate going into the elections, it is necessary to focus on the objective at hand, i.e., that of bringing people who have been hardened against voting for APNU, under any circumstances, over from the PPP. The obvious solution would be one led by the APNU presidential candidate, based on the immediate strengths of the voting constituencies of the two parties.

However, given the risk involved, I consider that what the hardcore PPP supporters who want to break away and have confidence in their new government will need is upfront security of representation. That, I submit, can be unequivocally achieved by APNU and its supporters recognizing the objective; not pandering to proportional representation in the initial distribution of power in terms of who gets the presidency first; and deferring to being led into power by an AFC presidential candidate, very likely resulting in a landslide at the booth.

Based on earlier discussions, an important point is noteworthy here. This is that the issue at hand here is not which party brings in the most votes this election, but which party brings in the most additional votes this election, more particularly, those of the traditional supporters of the PPP. The other major point to note is that the APNU, by allowing the AFC candidate to lead the coalition into the elections, will not forfeit any political power to the AFC. The central executive of the APNU will still retain control of its affairs, and the traditional APNU supporters will still have recourse to the APNU on political matters.

Issues of who gets which ministerial posts are immediately very minor, and are easily negotiated. In opting for this route, the APNU will make a tremendous strategic dent in the PPP, while securing the peoples' ultimate objective of winning the election.

I urge my fellow Guyanese, particularly the traditional APNU supporters, to consider this proposal, discuss it and clarify all their concerns with it. Unless there is something that is radically worse than losing the elections, I urge there be agreement upon it, and that this consensus filter back up to the leaders of both the APNU and AFC as soon as possible.<sup>45</sup>

We can then put the PPP behind us and get on with forging our development and remedying our constitutional and other issues. ++

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<sup>45</sup> *The APNU/AFC Coalition was formed on Feb 14, 2015; Kaieteur News, Feb 15, 2015, Stabroek News, Feb 15, 2015.*

Was Finally Able to Get This One Off... (eMail sent to major financial organizations and International Crime Fighting Organizations.)

**19. GUYANA'S PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY  
ADMINISTRATION RUN BY INDIVIDUALS  
LINKED TO DRUGS, MONEY LAUNDERING AND  
MURDER**

7:39 PM

**To: *OII-reportfraud@iadb.org***

**Cc: *ggottselig@imf.org, pwalker@imf.org, ethics@imf.org, info@caribank.org, email@bis.org***

I wish to submit that, based on the evidence provided at the two links below and the entrenched, systematic corruption within the government of the Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) in Guyana that results from the deliberate denial of the establishment of the Public Procurement Commission, the oversight body, that the Inter-American Development Bank derecognize the Peoples Progressive Party of Guyana as a legitimate political organization, and thus is not eligible under any condition, save expulsion of known criminal elements former President of Guyana, Minister of Health and former Minister of Home Affairs, to enter into any contractual financial arrangement for or on behalf of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

I urge that all international financial organizations break their financial ties with the government of the Peoples Progressive Party on the basis that, notwithstanding the PPP's own 'democratically' elected status, it is impossible for these international organizations to deny the available evidence of the former President's and the PPP administration's sponsoring of a known drug lord's phantom squad's reign of mayhem and murder in Guyana.

Entering into contractual arrangements with the administration of Peoples Progressive Party clearly indicates that the Inter-American Development Bank and other international financial organizations are knowingly engaging with an organization that is run by individuals linked to the illicit drug trade, money laundering, murder and corruption.

Under current political arrangements, it appears impossible to engage the local courts to seek a conviction on the three named individuals. The IADB and other international financial organizations are therefore advised of their fiduciary responsibility, and to ensure that international best practice on governance and ethics are met and adhered to.

The contents of this email have been dispatched to INTERPOL and the US DEA at their relevant web pages.

I further request INTERPOL to forward the attached information to the relevant international crime fighting agencies for their assistance in putting an end to Guyana being used as a narco-trafficking port on the South American continent, and investigate whether the international financial organizations which have financial relations with Guyana may be in breach of laws governing financial relations with individuals known to be linked to, and have benefitted from drug trafficking, money laundering, corruption and murder.

Best Regards,

*Craig Sylvester.*

<http://www.caribbeanamericanforum.org/?p=2039><sup>46</sup>;

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<sup>46</sup> This website is no longer available.

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/guyana-review/08/20/shaheed-%e2%80%98roger%e2%80%99-khan-drugs-dirty-money-and-the-death-squad/>

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## **20. THE CHOICES IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS ARE CLEAR**

Kaieteur News | February 26, 2015.

Dear Editor,

In this letter I will consider the responsibility of Guyanese to their democracy, putting an end to the PPP's fear-mongering of African Guyanese, and the choices before Guyanese in the upcoming elections.

Guyana is a democracy. A democracy is a system of government where leaders are elected by a majority, and every citizen has equal rights under the established laws. We previously were never encouraged to pay attention to the meaning of democracy and the role we as individuals play in maintaining our democracy. We need to start doing so and embrace, and take responsibility for our democracy.

A democracy cannot stand by itself. It has to be fought for, instituted and defended. Our founding fathers, the late Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham fought for, and instituted our democracy. We and our generations have to defend it. While we may all not be soldiers of our army, we are definitely soldiers of our democracy, which we are born to defend. We must never again allow our democracy to be overrun by wanna-be tyrants, despots and dictators who raise themselves above the law. Our learned men of the law will advise that our Constitution provides for our democracy to be scuttled, among other things. We all look forward to these issues being addressed immediately with the coming change in government.



Intrinsic to our democratic responsibility is our vote. Our vote decides who and which Party is better suited to administer the affairs of our Government. What we cannot and should not do is not vote on the assumption that a particular party ‘will win’, ‘all politicians are crooks’, etc., etc. Guyana has a crisis in government and this time, if any, is when your vote is needed in determining our next government.

The answer to the PPP’s incitement of hate and fear of African Guyanese on the basis that the Peoples National Congress Reform, and ultimately, APNU, is a ‘racist party,’ and that its supporters were/are ‘racist’ was actually formulated in an intense discussion with one of my Facebook colleagues a few weeks ago, and now, if any, is an opportune time to share this with the public.

The charge of PPP supporters having reason to fear domination and abuse by African Guyanese under APNU is upended by recognizing the fact that African Guyanese voted against the PNC, and in the process helped to install Dr. Cheddi Jagan as President and the PPP as the new government in 1992. Ultimately then, the PPP’s propaganda and fear-mongering of African Guyanese among its supporters is ill-conceived, misleading, and without base. African Guyanese long ago extended support to both Dr. Cheddi Jagan and the PPP.

Finally, if this is not enough, the AFC’s embrace of APNU going into the upcoming elections is proof enough if any, that APNU and African Guyanese embrace and are in solidarity with PPP supporters for a fair, just and competent government.

Many Guyanese, myself included, are heartened and overwhelmed that APNU and the AFC have been able to find compromise through negotiations for the benefit of Guyana. I have always considered this pivotal in moving Guyana forward.

Examining the leadership and policy positions of both of these parties, it is clear they have much in common, and little in the way of differences on how Guyana should progress. They are both strongly against the corruption, injustice and abuses of the PPP, and

they both are of the opinion that Guyana can achieve much more with a better government, stronger adherence to governance and Guyana's legislative framework, and that there is dire need for constitutional reform.

The recent Mash celebrations gave rise to some truly wonderful scenes of respect and brotherhood of our African and Indian cultures under the common nationality we share. The coalition is an expression of the intense hope its leaders have that Guyanese can indeed move away from racist/ethnic ideas and politics to making choices and decisions on policy issues without fear of oppression by either ethnic group. The coalition is, to me, Guyana's greatest promise for our future, and it is this promise that we need to take hold of and boldly vote for on May 11.

The choices faced by Guyanese come May 11 are clear – to vote for the AFC-APNU coalition that gives hope and promise of a better life for us, our children and Guyana at large, or to vote for a continuation of the corruption, injustice and abuses of the PPP.

On May 11, ensure that you take your friends and families to exercise your franchise and vote for the government of your choice. ++

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## **21. THINGS A NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERING**

*Stabroek News* | March 23, 2015.

*Dear Editor,*

As we look to the future on May 11, there will likely be many recommendations on issues for the new government to consider upon its assumption of office. I have scribbled together a few brief proposals I wish to share for public consideration.

1. End race politics and fear-mongering by embracing inclusiveness and the representation of all our ethnic groups in government.

2. End corruption and the stealing of government resources by implementing the Public Procurement Commission and strengthening existing legislation and regulation to eliminate corruption and penalize corrupt officials.
3. Foster greater independence of the judiciary.
4. End control of the communications industry by issuing licenses to interested companies in a properly regulated environment.
5. Invest in towns, villages and communities countrywide by introducing effective management with local government elections.
6. Provide cheaper electricity to spur investment across the three counties.
7. Create more and higher paying jobs.
8. Eliminate bottlenecks in the rice industry by sitting with the rice farmers and millers to straighten out issues and constraints to their effective performance.
9. Work with GUYSUICO and GAWU to return the company and industry to profitability.
10. Sit with the public service unions to work out acceptable proposals and the means of providing appropriate compensation packages for public servants.
11. Collaborate with the various productive sectors (manufacturing, services, mining, etc.) to lower costs and increase export opportunities and revenues.
12. Examine measures to make university education accessible to all Guyanese, regardless of income status.
13. Examine possibilities for reducing VAT.

Voting is not someone else's responsibility. On May 11, everyone should ensure that all eligible individuals in their homes and neighborhoods come out to vote for a new, progressive and democratic government. For the sake of their children. ++

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## **22. THE PPP SHOULD STOP BASHING BURNHAM TO HIDE ITS OWN CORRUPTION AND COSTLY MISMANAGEMENT**

Kaieteur News | April 11, 2015.

Dear Editor,

The PPP continues to attack David Granger and the PNCR about what transpired under Burnham's presidency. This is very likely because they have found themselves mired in a situation where much of the little good that the PPP has done is shrouded in some form of corruption and/or mismanagement which has resulted in the loss of millions, and in some cases, billions of dollars.

The public should now be aware that the PPP's corruption and other indiscretions have so overtaken it, that they very probably are now unable to attract professionals to their Party, and so have bolstered their ranks with family members. They are thus trapped in a technical vacuum which forces them to resort to rehashing history.

It would be disingenuous to deny that Guyana endured hardships under Burnham. These include the unavailability of many basic items that resulted from an inability of the economy to generate foreign exchange to meet import requirements at the time, and the many claims of vote-rigging.

Our economic hardships were a tragic reality of the time, the principal cause of this being the oil crisis, which characterized high oil prices on the international market and so made it difficult for Guyana to meet its import requirements, sometimes even on this item itself. The claims of vote-rigging have been many, with the PPP even today threatening a return to vote-rigging under the Coalition.

On this particular score, I cannot attest, since there has never, to my knowledge, been any attempt to demonstrate factually and unequivocally, as in the courts for example, that this did in fact occur. But to allow this latter charge even for the sake of discussion,

there can be no clearer disconnect between Burnham and Granger, the PNCR, APNU and ultimately, the Coalition on economics, government, and governance for Guyana.

Granger, the PNCR and the Coalition are committed to, stand fast and hold to the principles of democracy in the first instance. The Coalition, David Granger and Moses Nagamootoo are also committed to competent government, good governance and the elimination of corruption in government, issues which have become the Achilles' heel of the present administration.

The PPP has sought to demonize Burnham for political ends, but the fact is, (and history will record that notwithstanding his failures which principally resulted from his adoption of socialist policies) Burnham was a great leader and internationally recognized statesman, and was devoutly committed to the economic advancement and prosperity of all Guyanese.

Among his great achievements in pushing for Guyana's economic and social development, if only to dispel the notion of Burnham being perpetrated by the PPP, are the institutionalization of many cultural/religious holidays in recognition of our multi-ethnic society, and the passing of the Amerindian Amendment Act in Parliament which facilitated the processing of land titles for Amerindians.

Burnham also was responsible for the formation of the National Insurance Scheme, the construction of the many multilateral schools and other primary, secondary and vocational educational facilities throughout the country, establishing the University of Guyana as our national tertiary institution on its current Turkeyen Campus, the guarantee of free education to all Guyanese from nursery to university, a policy which the PPP considered wise to undo, the Linden Highway and the Demerara Harbour Bridge, which have withstood the test of time.

Finally, Burnham recognized that racism remained a threat to Guyana's social stability and so initiated talks with Dr. Cheddi Jagan to form a coalition government with the PPP from the late seventies

up until the time of his death. Today, this coalition has become a reality with the formation of the APNU+AFC alliance.

An unfortunate truth is that the PPP has sought to destroy and tarnish the image and contributions of Burnham to Guyana's social and economic progress for political gain. They have also sought to destroy and undermine the character of Moses Nagamootoo and Khemraj Ramjattan, two former PPP stalwarts and dedicated Guyanese servants. These two individuals have separately contested the PPP's corruption and injustice while members of that party, and today stand with David Granger in the APNU+AFC Coalition.

We are therefore encouraged to be cognizant of our history and be wary of the disparaging claims of the PPP as it seeks to mask its own negligence in managing Guyana's economy during its tenure. ++

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### **23. PEOPLE MUST DISREGARD PPP'S TERROR TACTICS**

Kaiteur News | April 13, 2015.

Dear Editor,

Guyanese should recognize that the PPP have realized that they have lost the people and are now employing scare tactics, all of which are unfounded, as a means of taking attention away from their corruption, incompetence, and the Coalition's own message of better government, governance, equality of opportunity and the push for social and economic progress through investment, job creation and higher wages.

David Granger has character and integrity with which the PPP is unable to compare. Granger, since 1992 demonstrated industriousness and a desire to rely on his talents and abilities to support himself and his family by starting the Guyana Review in 1992. The PPP cannot accuse him of corruption or racketeering as a means of generating his assets, something over which the PPP itself is charged and finds impossible to dispute.

Granger is a writer, intellectual, and soldier at heart, someone committed to defending Guyana against threats, both external and internal, to Guyana's security and stability.

And there can be little doubt in the minds of Guyanese that the PPP's government of corruption and self-enrichment schemes, its manipulation of the judicial system and its wholesale squandering and mismanagement of taxpayers' money on projects like the Amaila Falls scheme, overpriced airport project and the recent Marriott spending spree, present a clear and present danger to Guyana's social and economic stability.

Today, mansions have been built by the PPP with money whose source Guyanese have yet to figure out.

Guyanese are therefore urged to disregard the PPP's terror tactics and wait patiently for May 11 to vote for their future. ++

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## **24. NONE OF THE EMBARRASMENTS THE MINISTER OF FINANCE NOW FACES WOULD HAVE OCCURRED HAD THERE BEEN BETTER PPP LEADERSHIP**

Stabroek News || April 21, 2015.

Dear Editor,

The PPP finds it politically expedient to take out full page advertisements denouncing the PNC's former Minister of Finance and take issue with the former Auditor General on central government accounting prior to 1992. They conveniently forget or hope no one points out that whatever faults they may point out in the PNC's former finance minister are exactly the same faults and issues of principle they have inculcated in many of their own ministers of government.

The PPP has itself become home to ministers who, principled and professional though they may be, have been ordered by the PPP to

disregard laws and directives of Parliament itself and engage in conduct unbecoming of a minister, to say the least. For example, although I hold the Minister of Finance to be a highly principled and intelligent Guyanese, there can be no question that he, upon direction of the PPP, has engaged in conduct grossly improper and unbecoming of his office and a minister of the Government of Guyana. Also, the Minister of Legal Affairs has demonstrated a dialectic conundrum of character as regards his ministerial office with his now notorious recording.

Therefore, notwithstanding the Minister of Legal Affairs, what is clear is that in all governments burdened with poor leadership, there are good persons, highly dedicated individuals, who can only continue to serve under bad governance until change finally comes along to relieve them. I submit that had the PPP benefited from better leadership, none of the embarrassments which the Minister of Finance now faces would have been possible. ++

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## **25. LET US AS ONE PEOPLE TELL THE PPP TO 'STAND DOWN'**

Kaieteur News | April 26, 2015.

Dear Editor,

Many Guyanese have had their minds twisted and corrupted by the hate inspired by the PPP for Burnham and the PNC. The PPP, by peddling fear and hatred, has become a reproach to Guyana, intent on setting us against each other for their political ends.

I lived in Burnham's time, aged sixteen at the time of his death. I went with my father to cut cane on one of the plantations, lined up at GNTC on Regent street for milk and whatever else, ate cornmeal and plantain flour porridge without milk, ate rice flour bread, rice balls, endured all the blackouts, waited two weeks at the Georgetown Hospital to have my dislocated elbow attended to, and suffered just about everything everyone during that time went through.



But look at me. I don't hate Burnham or the PNC. As a matter of fact, it was Burnham's own call for us to 'Organize for Production and Defense,' among his annual speeches and other addresses to the nation, which focused my mind on our economic problems as a young adult.

I came to understand that Burnham was caught in the global politics of the time. Socialism at the time was a bad experiment, a tragic mistake, and a very bad episode in the lives of Guyanese at the time. This is in addition to the contributions of our local political climate, as recently highlighted in other sections of the media. But there is nothing that can be done about any of this.

We have to move on. Guyana has to move on. At stake right now is our future, with the PPP intent on continuing its government of corruption, and coercion of the judicial system to protect its perverse, corrupt and abusive government officials and ministers.

We decide on May 11 whether to condemn ourselves to living under the PPP's elitist government of abuses and its program of underdevelopment as it continues to drag its feet on job creation and the generation of higher paying jobs. This along with the withholding of local government elections and implementation of poor infrastructural projects that facilitate the PPP's systematic feeding of itself, its friends and families. Here we need only look at the numerous family members the PPP has absorbed into its ranks for reinforcing its elitist government of corruption and abuse come May 11.

Or we can opt for the APNU+AFC Coalition which comprises individuals dedicated to fighting the PPP's abuses and injustices, individuals committed to delivering on our desire for a better life and prosperity and a government committed to eliminating corruption within the corridors of government.

On May 11, let us all get on board and play our part in taking this country forward, TOGETHER.

Let us as one people tell the PPP to 'STAND DOWN!'

Our Future Belongs to Us. Let Us Claim It Now! ++

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## **26. INDIAN GUYANESE SHOULD NOT BE SWAYED BY THOSE PURVEYING RACIAL INSECURITY**

Stabroek News | April 29, 2015.

Dear Editor,

The purpose of education is to form a repository of knowledge from which to deduce solutions to problems in society. It also seeks to transmit such knowledge and increasing gains in the frontiers of thinking to future generations. Intellectuals are individuals who make the search for truth a matter of principle and are guided by the discipline of ethics which facilitates the unbiased dissertation of historical and new knowledge.

A recent contributor's letter<sup>47</sup> demonstrates that of a studied individual who could be possibly considered an intellectual given his attempt to use history to inform and guide our decisions. Unfortunately, he, like many other highly educated individuals, manages to set aside the discipline of ethics, if this is indeed a position on which he would claim to pin his analysis, as a means creating racial insecurities and perpetuating ethnic fears in our society to generate support for the PPP.

Conveniently disregarding the PPP's own systematic social and economic abuses, the contributor's Achilles heel in his letter, where ethics is dropped in the discussion, is that he seeks to assert that Indians perceive themselves to be victims of the PNC's years under Burnham. He wisely seeks to disassociate himself from this assertion, for which he has provided no basis. It is a matter of fact that the PPP and their apologists have sought to project and maintain this fallacy in the psyche of Indian Guyanese.

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<sup>47</sup> *Stabroek News - If Mr. Ramjattan wanted Indians to forget PNC atrocities the least he could have done was to call for PNC accountability; Apr 28, 2015.*

This letter writer and many other PPP sympathizers will continue to perpetuate racial insecurity and ethnic divisions in our society for political gain at the expense of social and economic progress. This practice is one which must be immediately rebuffed, and the media must further commit themselves to regulating these and similar fallacies out of their publications.

I have myself recently penned a letter which addressed this issue, which has once again been raised, to Stabroek News, which the editor of Stabroek News finds journalistically prudent not to publish.

The summary on the PNC's years is that the majority of the population, typically workers, regardless of race, endured the social and economic hardships at the time which were due to what can only be termed an experiment with socialism in Guyana up until the death of Burnham. Subsequent to Burnham's death, the Hoyte administration embarked on a program with the IMF to move Guyana to a market-based system. He also removed import restrictions which saw the return of 'banned' commodities back to our shelves.

African Guyanese suffered as well as Indian Guyanese, and the point has already been made and acknowledged that African Guyanese voted with Indian Guyanese to install Dr. Cheddi Jagan and the People's Progressive Party into government in 1992, notwithstanding the efforts of the PNC under Hoyte to deliver economic transformation and growth, the benefits of which were seen in the first five to seven years of the PPP administration. Even this the PPP have falsely claimed to be a result of their bidding.

We should therefore hold fast to the truth of our history and not fall prey to those who seek to justify and maintain the PPP's corrupt and abusive government in office. Indian Guyanese especially, who are targets of racial solicitations, should not allow themselves be swayed by these brazen attempts to perpetuate racial insecurity in our country. ++

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## 27. THIS ELECTION IS A REFERENDUM ON CORRUPTION

Kaieteur News | May 4, 2015.

Dear Editor,

The PPP boasts of economic growth over the last few years. Well, Guyanese should also know that the statistics quoted include expenditure on all corrupt and busted projects, including the Marriott, spending on the road to Amaila Falls, the overpriced contracts at the Airport, among others.

One of the major reasons for the PPP seeking a return to government has to do with the lucrative mechanism for corruption they have implemented. This system cannot be implemented anywhere else and generate the same returns for them. The following are among the variety of measures that might have been used to receive money through bribery and corruption:

1. Upfront direct payments in cash via envelopes and other similar means. This is not necessarily confined to the office, but can be arranged at virtually any place of convenience.
2. For transactions involving foreign companies and large foreign currency-denominated payments, these may be typically routed through foreign bank accounts initially, with no record of an impact on the balance sheets of the government officials. These monies build up over time, becoming a slush fund which is used to transact acquisitions of foreign assets, etc., by ministers.
3. Local contractors pay bribes to officials after receiving contracts which are overpriced to accommodate bribe payments. This is the typical 'kickback'.
4. Beneficial local contractors may grant kick-backs on projects through gifts like 'assisting' in construction for the personal benefit of government officials, purchase of assets from these contractors or other businesses with the beneficial contractors assisting in the acquisition of these assets.

5. Use of state institutions like NICIL to facilitate the purchase of assets at below market value, which can later be disposed at astronomical prices.
6. Corrupt foreign and local contractors directly purchasing or facilitating the purchase of assets by government officials and ministers.
7. Direct cooking of the books of the relevant ministries and state institutions to facilitate fraud and outright theft. This may require cooperation across ministries and agencies.
8. Through prior agreements, contractors deliberately do shoddy work in order to get other contracts to remedy their bungling. This realizes additional payoffs to government officials through whatever arrangements have been established.

Can anyone follow the money, even with a forced declaration of assets? The answer would be a difficult yes. All local assets would be easily identifiable. Foreign assets, particularly, foreign bank accounts will require tracking government officials' travels abroad and correspondence with the banking systems of those countries. Additionally, assistance will be required to track internet activity, since some financial institutions make provisions for establishing accounts over the internet.

So when we see the PPP's ministers and government officials with unexplained or suspicious assets, things should probably be much clearer now, knowing that there is much more to them than meets the eye.

These also very probably have been among the major issues that have kept the PPP's attention away from generating investment, job creation and higher paying jobs for Guyanese. These are among the issues we all will vote on come May 11. These elections are a referendum on the corruption during the PPP's terms in government. ++

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## 28. AS WE GO TO THE POLLS...

Kaiaeteur News | May 9, 2015.

Dear Editor,

As we go to the polls Monday, there are a few things we need to reflect upon as we cast our vote for the next government.

For the last fifteen years or so our democracy has been suspended. Justice has been corrupted and corruption in the issuance of government contracts has been the order of the day. Our financial and natural resources have been misused and mismanaged in mind-boggling proportions. There have been attacks on our press and a systematic attempt by the PPP to control our media and communications environment. The freedom of access to information taken for granted in other democratic societies has been relegated to the dustbin with the blatant monopoly and abuse of the state media by PPP and its selective issuance of broadcast licenses.

Abuses perpetuated by officials and ministers of the PPP administration have left Guyanese dumbfounded at the injustices that have been meted out against our men, women and children. These stretch from base brutality at the hands of members of the disciplined services, who instead of being reprimanded, are promoted, to death threats and abuse of our women by ministers of the PPP itself. The coercion of our courts to protect these guilty officials are clear enough evidence if any, of the state to which we have descended under the PPP, and the PPP's own plans and intentions under any future government to which it may be elected. With the return of the former president<sup>48</sup> to the political frontlines of the PPP, their promise to us is very clearly that of an autocratic police state where ordinary Guyanese have no recourse to the law [against their abuses].

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<sup>48</sup> *StabroekNews-Politics...Bharat Jagdeo and the PPP/C's 2015 elections campaign; Apr 28, 2015.*

It is regrettable that the incumbent PPP has shirked many of the responsibilities to which it committed itself during its consecutive terms in office. Its decisions on the sugar industry have left that economic sector in financial tatters and decimated the lives its workers and their families. Rice farmers who contribute significantly to foreign currency reserves are now crying out at their financial distress due to significant underpayment for their produce. All of the PPP's claims of economic growth have included the massive expenditures on poorly executed projects and the misappropriation of billions of dollars in taxpayers' money.

Even without a feasibility study, pictures have been taken of the Amaila Falls which clearly show that the seasonality of the flow of water there raises doubts about the investment as a consideration in the first place. Yet tens of millions of United States dollars have been expended on building and maintaining a road to this location.

A hare-brained approach was similarly forthcoming in considering investments in the use of wind turbines on our shores. Where are the turbines and where is the cheap electricity?

The PPP's greatest failure has however been in not delivering on its promise of jobs to the nation's workers. In its twenty-two years in office the PPP talked so much and promised so much on jobs and job creation, but has it ever produced a sustainable plan for job creation to meet our nation's evolving needs? Where is this plan? And where are the jobs?

With an estimated annual increase of fifteen thousand new job seekers, many school leavers, the unemployed and those looking for better jobs have had to put their dreams on hold in the absence of these promised jobs. The best the PPP can claim is that every odd five years or so some ad-hoc company comes forward with a demand for jobs in the hundreds. This is hardly an appropriate response to the jobs and incomes crisis Guyanese face.

The PPP administration has wiped out and demolished the dreams of an entire generation of Guyanese as many grand-parents watch their children and grand-children struggle under the weight of

unemployment and underemployment that results from not earning enough to sustain a family.

As an intelligent people, we have been further subjected to abuse, humiliation and fear-mongering by the PPP in its recent political campaigning. In the absence of any credible record to which it can lay claim, the PPP has once again sought to use race to incite fear and hate as means of soliciting votes. This has to be rejected. Guyanese have come a far way and sacrificed much to be set against each other with fears perpetuated by a weak and corrupt administration.

In the few months of its formation, the Coalition APNU+AFC has demonstrated a positive force of transformation and change for Guyana, attracting well respected, accomplished Guyanese to their cause. This cause and promise which the Coalition has explained in its manifesto represents the hopes of all Guyanese going forward after these elections. This manifesto is a contract between the APNU+AFC and Guyanese. It has transformed our dreams and aspirations into a working document which we can all hold and subscribe to. And more importantly, in which we all have the opportunity to play our part.

The last twenty-two years of the Peoples Progressive Party have left us wondering at ourselves, questioning our future, with an extremely ill feeling about our destiny. It is time for a new chapter in Guyana's history.

Let us understand the issues at stake and the threats the PPP poses to our personal and national economic and social progress going forward. Let us reason intelligently with ourselves and deduce the course of our history. At this juncture of our present, there is no one we need to turn to for advice. Because we all know everything we need to know. We have seen the evidence of things past, as well as the promise of things to come under both parties.

This election, on May 11, may we choose wisely and be joyful in the heritage our forefathers fought for us. ++

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## **SECTION II**

- Letter to President Barack Obama of the United States of America.
- Letter to Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom.

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## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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January 19, 2015.

Craig Sylvester

Xxxxx xxxx

Xxxxx xxxx

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500.

Attn: Mr. Barack Obama,  
President of the United States of America.

Dear Mr. President,

### **Re: Recommendation for the Immediate Imposition of Sanctions on Guyana's PPP Administration.**

I write to urge your Government's intervention in Guyana's immediate crisis, which has been precipitated by the President and his PPP Administration, and upon a review of available information, find favor with my request to immediately authorize sanctions against Guyana's PPP Administration, which include at the very least, a freeze of the accounts of Government of Guyana, as well as those of the ministers of the Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP) Administration.

Faced with a No Confidence Motion for unmitigated instances of systematic corruption within his government, the President on November 10, 2015, prorogued, or suspended Guyana's Parliament under the guise of seeking a way forward through extra-parliamentary dialogue with the Opposition. This has failed.

In the interim, the administration of the Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP) continues to spend from the treasury without Parliamentary oversight, which, coupled with the systematic corruption facilitated by the absence of the Public Procurement Commission, the organ responsible for the oversight of the issuance of government

contracts, which existence has been willfully denied by the President's non-assent to the appropriate legislation, provides the PPP administration with a virtual blank check on the treasury to fund purchases of voter support and continue its program of distributing state funds to its acolytes in the private sector.

Recent history of the financial malfeasances of the PPP administration includes the construction of the US\$58 million Marriott Hotel without Parliamentary oversight. As potential evidence of money laundering, or else continued misappropriation of state funds in the absence of parliamentary approval, this project, which required commercial financing of approximately US\$27 million, is about to be completed in the absence of such financing, and has already been mortgaged to a local commercial bank, Republic Bank (Guyana) Limited.

Although the president promised to announce a date for general and regional elections early in the year, it is now apparent that the PPP Administration is more than comfortable with the current arrangements, namely the suspension of parliamentary oversight of government spending and the essential scrapping of Guyana's democracy.

In consideration of the PPP's own history of criminal involvement and association documented in <http://www.caribbeanamericanforum.org/?p=2039><sup>49</sup>, I urge that you direct the Government of the United States of America to derecognize the current PPP administration as a legitimate government in Guyana, and assist Guyanese in restoring our democracy by following through with my request of immediately implementing sanctions on the PPP Administration, which include a freeze of the accounts both the Government of Guyana and ministers of the PPP across the international financial system, as far as this can be achieved, and any other measures deemed fitting and appropriate.

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<sup>49</sup> *This page has since been removed.*

## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Guyana is currently under siege and its democracy is threatened by the PPP administration. Guyanese look forward to foreign assistance from both the United States of America and the United Kingdom as a means of avoiding potentially physically and socially destructive violent confrontation in the ensuing months. The Peoples' Progressive Party is run by criminals, tyrants and hooligans, and hopes for an amicable resolution are fading quickly in light of recent positions adopted by the PPP administration. My own analyses and social commentary which sought to advise on the current position are available at [www.facebook.com/reclaimingguyana](http://www.facebook.com/reclaimingguyana)

I have forwarded a similar request for assistance to Mr. David Cameron, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, along with a copy of this letter, in the hope that your two governments will coordinate efforts to bring a speedy resolution to our crisis.

I thank both the Government of the United States of America and yourself for your consistent and dedicated support to economic and social progress in Guyana in the past, and look forward to your intervention and support now and in the future. Indeed, may our mutual commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom of speech continue to be the bond of strength in the amicable and prosperous relationship between our two countries.

Yours Faithfully,

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Craig Sylvester.

Attach.

## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>s</sup> Century

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Cc: David Cameron, Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Office,  
10 Downing Street, London, UK.

Cc: Bryan D. Hunt, Chargé D'Affaires, U.S. Embassy,  
100 Young & Duke Streets, Georgetown, GY.

Cc: Andrew Ayre, British High Commissioner, British High  
Commission, 44 Main Street, Georgetown, GY.

Cc: David Granger, Opposition Leader, APNU, Hadfield Street,  
Stabroek, Georgetown.

Cc: Khemraj Ramjattan, MP, Alliance for Change.

## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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January 19, 2015.

Craig Sylvester  
XXXXX XXXX  
XXXXX XXXX

The Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London.  
SW1A 2AA

Attn: Mr. David Cameron,  
Prime Minister, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Dear Mr. David Cameron,

**Re: Recommendation for the Immediate Imposition of Sanctions on Guyana's PPP Administration.**

I write to first acknowledge the efforts of your government to address Guyana's current crisis, and secondly to urge that your government recognize that the President and his PPP Administration have committed to remaining in power for as long as possible by whatever means, and move to immediately impose sanctions aimed at freezing all available Government of Guyana accounts within your government's purview, as well as those of the ministers of the Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP) Administration. I also urge that you direct your Government to implement any and all measures considered necessary to move the president to announce a date for Guyana's general and regional elections, and return democracy to Guyana.

Faced with a No Confidence Motion for unmitigated instances of systematic corruption within his government, the president on November 10, 2015, prorogued, or suspended Guyana's Parliament under the guise of seeking a way forward through extra-parliamentary dialogue with the Opposition. This has failed.

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## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>s</sup> Century

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<sup>50</sup> *This page has since been removed.*



## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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across the international financial system, as far as this can be achieved, along with any other measures deemed fitting and appropriate.

Guyana is currently under siege and the maintenance of its democracy is threatened by the PPP administration. Guyanese look forward to foreign assistance from both the United Kingdom and the United States of America as a means of avoiding potentially physically and socially destructive violent confrontation in the ensuing months. The Peoples' Progressive Party is run by criminals, tyrants and hooligans, and hopes for an amicable resolution are fading quickly in light of recent positions adopted by the PPP administration. My own analyses and social commentary which sought to advise on the current position are available at [www.facebook.com/reclaimingguyana](http://www.facebook.com/reclaimingguyana)<sup>51</sup>

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I thank both the Government of the United Kingdom and yourself for your consistent and dedicated support to economic and social progress in Guyana in the past, and look forward to your intervention and support now and in the future. Indeed, may our mutual commitment to the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom of speech continue to be the bond of strength in the amicable and prosperous relationship between our countries.

Yours Faithfully,

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Craig Sylvester.

Attach.

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<sup>51</sup> *This page is no longer available.*

## Bringing Guyana Into the 21<sup>s</sup> Century

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Cc: President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Cc: Bryan D. Hunt, Chargé D’Affaires, U.S. Embassy, 100 Young & Duke Streets, Georgetown, GY.

Cc: Andrew Ayre, British High Commissioner, British High Commission, 44 Main Street, Georgetown, GY.

Cc: David Granger, Opposition Leader, APNU, Stabroek, Georgetown.

Cc: Khemraj Ramjattan, MP, Alliance for Change.

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**APPENDICES**

## APPENDIX I

### Guyana: Real Gross Domestic Product: 1991 - 2021\*

G\$Mlns (2012 Prices)

Year	Real GDP #	Growth Rate (%)
1991	390,588	
1992	420,897	7.76
1993	455,537	8.23
1994	493,939	8.43
1995	518,932	5.06
1996	560,343	7.98
1997	594,972	6.18
1998	584,977	-1.68
1999	602,292	2.96
2000	594,101	-1.36
2001	607,646	2.28
2002	614,634	1.15
2003	610,516	-0.67
2004	620,162	1.58
2005 &	608,069	-1.95
2006	638,351	4.98
2007	683,163	7.02
2008	696,690	1.98
2009	719,820	3.32
2010	751,276	4.37
2011	792,146	5.44
2012	830,327	4.82
2013	860,661	3.65
2014	875,176	1.69
2015	881,192	0.69
2016	914,743	3.81
2017	948,904	3.73
2018	991,044	4.44
2019	1,044,093	5.35
2020	1,498,061	43.48
2021	1,797,786	20.01

\* - Bank of Guyana Annual Reports 2001, 2005, 2008, 2016, 2021.

# - Data prior to 2012 constructed using growth rates.

& - Based on revised data.

## APPENDIX II

### GUYANA'S EXECUTIVE PRESIDENTS

#### OCTOBER 1992 – Present\*

1. Cheddi B. Jagan \_\_\_\_\_ Oct 09, 1992 – Mar 06, 1997
2. Samuel Hinds \_\_\_\_\_ Mar 06, 1997 - Dec 19, 1997
3. Janet Jagan \_\_\_\_\_ Dec 19, 1997 – Aug 11, 1999
4. Bharrat Jagdeo \_\_\_\_\_ Aug 11, 1999 – Dec 03, 2011
5. Donald Ramotar \_\_\_\_\_ Dec 03, 2011 - May 16, 2015
6. \*\*\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ May 16, 2016 – Aug 02, 2020
7. Mohamed Irfaan Ali \_\_\_\_\_ Aug 02, 2020 – Present.

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*\* - The name of the sixth person has been omitted because his government through diverse measures, overtly engaged in the economic debauchery of Guyanese, committing to wilfully impoverishing them. It is hoped that such omission would raise their awareness of the magnitude of the pervasive influence of government in their lives and so stimulate greater levels of political activism to better secure themselves from the economic tyrants in their midst.*

*"Very informative. Provides a clear picture of Guyana's growth and development, post-independence era". -*  
Sydney Armstrong, Head, Department of Economics,  
University of Guyana.



**Craig Sylvester**

Craig Sylvester served as an economist at the Bank of Guyana from December 1999 thru' January 2008. During that time he benefitted from a number of IMF-sponsored training seminars conducted by the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center (CARTAC). Mr. Sylvester is dedicated to promoting social and economic progress by fostering a common base of knowledge from which major stakeholders can make more informed decisions.

Sylvester asserts that it is impossible for Guyanese to escape their responsibility for the development of their country. Using easy-to-understand language, he places Guyana's economic and political problems in context, and provides a scenario for moving Guyana forward.

Through a series of letters to the press, the author makes the case for the change of government in 2015. The book contains previously unpublished letters to President Barack Obama of the United States of America and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, soliciting their assistance during the turmoil leading up to the 2015 election. Also included is the copy of an email sent to the International Monetary Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Bank for International Settlements, requesting that they cease financial relations with the PPP administration in the final months leading up to the 2015 elections.

Essential reading for Guyanese,  
Government officials, Executives of