

DIASPORA

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JULY 2016



GBTI Bank Headquarters
Cover Photo by Rex Lucas

OPPORTUNITIES & THREATS



Desmond Roberts is Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Diaspora Times.

I was listening to a radio program recently which outlined how the lobbying K Street worked. The commentator argued that the overwhelmingly high returns from lobbyists investing in legislators and their causes, were distorting public policy, traditional debates and compromise for the public good.

Hillary Clinton has said publicly that not all lobbying is bad, since some major social issues and organizations need representation. However, that was not the general feeling in this election cycle. There is general unease with the status quo. It can be argued that Mrs. Clinton prepared for the wrong election by doing all the usual 'right' things: she was tough with the 'bad guys' in foreign countries to avoid being called soft; she traveled the world meeting leaders of every stripe; she raised a tremendous war chest from the usual organized and organizational sources and she stayed in the middle of the policy road. However, the objective conditions changed abruptly, throwing up challenges to K Street and to the growing social, earnings and wealth inequality in the country and the world.

Critics of the two-party system in America – Republicans and Democrats – have labeled it one party with ideological poetic differences in campaigning, but governing in the identical prose favoring big business. While the Republicans had found success in the past with the issues surrounding religion, abortion, subtle ethnic

prejudice, fiscal conservatism, gun liberalism and military strength abroad, the Democrats had won presidential elections on equality of opportunity, measured concern for the poor, a sensible balance between diplomacy and firmness in foreign affairs and environmental matters, with, unfortunately, the underlying topical and emotional issues still not being interrogated.

The voters took the opportunity during the primary cycle to strongly voice their discontent with the dissonance between the traditional positions of both parties and the reality of an unrewarding job, the inability to look after one's family, inadequate health care coverage, the destruction of the middle class and the seeming frustration with never being able to avoid the debt trap to provide a better life for one's children.

With another proof that situations create leaders and not leaders creating conditions, both parties found it hard to manage insurgencies from outsiders with messages to the extreme ends of their parties' agenda. On one hand, Donald Trump became the embodiment of the social confusion over the rapid changes in the society – same sex marriage, still expensive health care costs, wars abroad, ever expanding terrorism, ethnic and gender insecurity and massive job loss to other countries. This situation, for this group, demanded a leader who would return the society to the social status quo (making America great again).

Editorial - July 2016

OPPORTUNITIES & THREATS

Trump was more extreme in his right wing, game show (almost totalitarian) posturing and name calling, overwhelming the coterie of 'low energy', 'lying' and 'little' party faithfuls.

The Democratic Party was able, through superior and experienced ground organization, to beat back a spirited challenge from leftist outsider Bernie Sanders who had been a lifelong avatar of a Don Quixote, tilting at the privileged windmills of Wall Street and the favored Big Business class. Hillary Clinton used her experience and Obama's election campaign machinery to win the primary race; and a galaxy of political stars at the Democratic Convention (held in the City of Brotherly Love – Philadelphia) to remove the perception of her untrustworthiness and opportunism. The Donald had no such luck, with the governor of the host state of Ohio not even attending the Cleveland convention, as did many of the top Republican Party stalwarts who also stayed away.

However, American elections, under the Electoral College system, allow a few 'swing states', to offer opportunities to weaker candidates who focus on the issues that affect those 'local' voters more. The majority of the other

states are supposedly either solidly Democratic (blue) or Republican (red) strongholds. The aim is to get your supporters to the polls (there have been strong attempts to restrict voter participation using all kinds of ruses) and to win over the growing number of independent voters. The latter might favor - either opportunistically, affected by a current event or the 'trust' in a candidate – a strongman (woman), a skilled communicator or a steady trusted experienced politician. The popular vote only counts materially in electing senators and congress persons who are meant to legislate on behalf of the American citizen. Enter K Street once more into the picture.

There are opportunities for both candidates in this volatile social and political milieu; and there are threats to the status quo regardless of which one wins. One thing is certain: the outsiders have changed forever how politics will be prosecuted in two-party America for some time.

Those who have eyes to see and ears to listen are called to pay attention.

By Desmond Roberts

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THINGS THAT

By **Kojo Nnamdi**

BOTHER ME



Back in the day, maybe up until the late 1950s, the late great R.B.O “Sweetie” Hart used to write a regular column in the old Sunday Chronicle in Guyana, titled “Things That Bother Me.” The title of the column was self-explanatory, and Mr. Hart was a fine writer. So with due deference and respect to Sweetie Hart, I’ll reprise his column in the Diaspora Times.

HERE GOES:

It bothers me that Guyana seems to be stubbornly clinging to early 20th century beliefs about the dangers of marijuana. The American movie “Reefer Madness,” a tale about the melodramatic events that ensued when some young people were lured into trying marijuana, was made in 1936. It was so ridiculous that by the mid-1950’s critics were listing it among the worst movies ever made, and by the 1970’s it had become a cult classic as an unintentional satire.

Since that time, scientific studies have determined that marijuana is neither as addictive nor as dangerous to health as heroin, cocaine, barbiturates, alcohol or

cigarettes. Indeed, it has been found to have healthful effects, and doctors have increasingly prescribed it for patients suffering with a variety of ailments, to treat disease and improve symptoms, hence the commonly used term “medical marijuana.” Its use is increasingly being decriminalized and in many cases legalized, in several countries in the world, and in some states in the U.S. It is generally agreed that three of the last four US Presidents have smoked marijuana, (one former President, Bill Clinton, claimed he didn’t inhale). Current President asserted “I inhaled. That was the point.” In spite of all the scientific evidence and social and cultural adjustment to the use of marijuana in several parts of the world and the Caribbean, draconian laws in Guyana punish people caught with small amounts of marijuana with lengthy jail sentences and heavy fines, penalties which often decimate the futures of otherwise promising young people, especially young men, with criminal records that can stymie their efforts to improve their lives.

So yes, it bothers me that elected officials in Guyana appear to be quite satisfied to allow ignorance (literally the lack of knowledge that is readily available) to prevail on this issue.

Of course many educated men and women of my generation, including those of us who consume alcohol in copious quantities, nevertheless often assert confidently, and with a total lack of experience, that we can see how marijuana is destroying the young people. We confuse mental illness with marijuana induced behavior, criminalise the poorest who get caught possessing marijuana, and by so doing, justify our uninformed assertion that marijuana is destroying young people.

And that bothers me.

THINGS THAT BOTHER ME



Don't get me wrong. I am not advocating the use of marijuana, but when one lives in the diaspora here in the U.S., it's easy to see that the so-called War On Drugs here has resulted in skyrocketing rates of incarceration in general, and mind-blowing rates of incarceration of black men and women in particular. Jailing hundreds of thousands of people who committed the non-violent crime of possessing narcotics has had devastating effects on African American communities here, so to watch the same pattern unfold in Guyana, where people of color control the criminal justice system, is particularly worrying.

What's clear is that President Granger is at least aware of the effects of high incarceration rates, as the pardons he initiated after taking office indicate. What's less clear is whether the political establishment as a whole has a similar concern. It doesn't seem to be a priority.

And that bothers me.

Actually a lot of things bother me, and they will be topics for future columns.

So thanks Sweetie Hart for inspiring this rant. And yes, Respect.

Kojo Nnamdi.

Kojo Nnamdi is the renowned radio host of the NPR Washington affiliate WAMU FM

PHOTOS CREDITED TO REX LUCAS

Top: Botanical Gardens
Georgetown Kissing
Bridge by Manatee Pond



Bottom: Promenade
Gardens Middle Street,
Georgetown



BRIBERY HAS BECOME THE NORM

By Annan Boodram

A young man, whose truck does almost daily trips from the Corentyne to Georgetown, was stopped by a policeman on the approaches to the Berbice River bridge, and cited for having a rider in the cab without a seat belt – there were three riders there but only two wore seat belts. So he had to bribe - \$5,000 each on days one, two and three. On the fourth day, he handed his cell phone to one of the riders and told him to hold the phone so it was visible to young policeman. Then he went up to the policeman and said, “You see that cell phone? I have pictures of you receiving money from me for the past three days. If you ever stop this truck again I will send those photos to newspapers and to your superiors.” That particular policeman never again stopped his truck again but was seen stopping other vehicles along the same stretch of road.

A drunk businessman was stopped by a policeman, who demanded his license and registration, and then told him, “Come to the station tomorrow and collect your documents.” The next day, upon the businessman’s arrival at the police station, a sum of \$20,000 was demanded of him. After forking over the money he was given his documents and sent home.

Indeed bribery is the norm in Guyana. Yet the various audits commissioned by the current government focused significantly on corruption, real or perceived,

with little mention of bribery, which has become embedded in every facet of life in Guyana. This writer has listened to narration of percentages built into contracts, of greasing hands to prevent the royal run around at every level of the bureaucracy, of drivers on the road preferring to give a ‘lil’ piece to the police rather than facing the hassle of going to court and losing much more in terms of earnings, of bribes speeding up every process from getting drivers license to obtaining copies of birth and death certificates...

The fact that the current government claimed that raising salaries of ministers was a move aimed at preventing bribery in an indication that the David Granger administration is fully aware of the pervasive nature of bribery in Guyana. So if raising salaries is the way to go then should not salaries be raised across the board? The fact, however, is that in Guyana bribes are often offered even before being asked for. When this is not done, a system of well-known, non-verbal cues are displayed to get the message across. This issue is compounded by the fact that Diaspora Guyanese, who do not want to be bothered by the hassle, will willingly shell out bribes for whatever.

In effect stamping out bribery is not about raising salaries, but rather about changing norms/behavior and any such impacting mechanism must be aimed at the entire equation - the bribe giver plus the bribe taker. Such a mechanism must also be institutionalized so it does not operate at the whims and fancies of anyone. It must be consistently applied and supported by the legal and other systems of consequences. So perhaps, since it’s the season of commission of inquiries (COI), how about one on bribery that would take evidence, foster consultations and then craft the desired mechanism? In the meanwhile a start can be made by the Police Complaints Authority, and other like minded institutions, ensuring that every allegation of bribery made is investigated in a timely manner and where necessary appropriate action taken.



Educator, journalist and social activist, Annan Boodram, is President of The Caribbean Voice, an NGO engaged in a suicide prevention and anti-violence campaign with a focus in Guyana. A public school teacher in New York City, Annan has written for publications around the world including New York City’s Daily News newspaper, Guyana’s Stabroek News, the now defunct Caribbean Contact, and Abu Dhabi based NRI Today. He urges readers to check out their website at www.caribvoice.org and become involved in saving lives and empowering people.

THE CARIBBEAN VOICE

THE VOICE OF THE CARIBBEAN AT HOME AND ABROAD

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For Immediate Release

Voices Against Violence National Anti-Violence Vigil

Georgetown, Guyana, July 13th, 2015: "Voices Against Violence" is an attempt to get communities across Guyana involved in anti-violence activism, while fostering the concept of communal action for community well being. This candle light vigil, set for World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10, 2016, is an initiative that is inexpensive and easy to organize - each participant simply needs a candle or can even use a cell phone - and that brings communities together. Thus vigils can be organized by religious institutions, local businesses, sports and youth clubs, political party groups...just about any entity or set of individuals including schools. Where possible two or more groups can collaborate. Each vigil can select routes around the community, end at a central point or any other selected place where the participants can be accommodated and hold a rally whereby preselected individuals from within or without the community can speak on the theme of anti-violence and, if desired, inter faith prayers can be conducted. During the walk about anti-violence slogans can be chanted.

For the purposes of this vigil all of the following are considered acts of violence either against self or others: trafficking, suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, domestic and child abuse, rape, incest, teenage pregnancy, road carnage, dysfunctional relationships, neglect of the elderly, abuse of the mentally and physically challenged. Besides, relationship violence and its dysfunctional socialization spawn, which are more and more looming as issues of critical urgency, can and do shape personalities that easily gravitate towards crime and attending violence. Thus, violence should be addressed holistically and when communities come together they can begin to become

more caring and build more togetherness while getting their feet wet in the practice of mindfulness. In effect, anti-violence must become everybody's business and immediately so! The candle light vigil, held in communities throughout the nation, is a step in this direction.

At the end of the day, Guyana is small enough, both in terms of demographics and inhabited landscape, for this vigil to be eminently doable, especially given that most of what needs to be harnessed is already in place. In fact, Guyana's history teaches that politics, race, religion are never obstacles in the face of people's willpower and resolve. Besides, the vigil will foster community collaboration, focus on saving lives and preventing harm, and foster the process of societal transformation.

Currently The Caribbean Voice, Golden Om Dharmic Youth, Save Abee Foundation, Orchid Foundation, Anna Catherina Islamic Complex, NJASM, Art of Living (Guyana), Nirvana Humanitarian Foundation, Imagine Nation Foundation and GIVE Foundation, are the organizations coordinating this vigil. But as the days go by we hope to have other NGOs involved, as well as the media and government agencies and ministries. Also we appeal to local and community leaders, businessmen and other influentials as well as community organizations, including religious institutions and sports club, to please help bring off this activity by ensuring that a vigil is organized in every community, collaboratively where possible. If anyone can spearhead a vigil, or knows of an individual or entity, who can be instrumental in organizing vigils please touch base with us.

So that we can map all vigils, provide any necessary assistance, including publicity and ensure that all vigils are acknowledged and lauded, The Caribbean Voice is requesting that all vigil organizers/potential organizers do contact us ASAP. In Guyana call Bibi at 621-6111 or 223-2637, Pandit Deodat at 627-4432 or Chandanie at 697-9968. In North America call Anna at 646-461-0574, Ty at 646-589-3135 or Sham at 954-778-3222. Send email to bibiamad1@hotmail.com, keshni.rooplall@yahoo.com, deodatpersaud25@yahoo.com or caribvoice@aol.com. IM Deodat Persaud, Chandanie Rooplall, Bibi Ahamad, Ty Talbot or Annan Boodram on Facebook.

NEW BOOK – ABOUT WHOEVER

By Karen Sinclair

About Whoever

the Social Imprint on Identity and Orientation,

by
Karen Sinclair,

*...is insightful, compelling analysis that puts human sexuality on the social analyst's couch. The book explores original & contemporary perspectives, advances social science thinking and promises a kernel of consensus among liberal and conservative points of view. It touches crucial developments in American civil Rights, "don't Ask Don't Tell" and other pertinent topics. Gay, straight, right-wing, left, or whoever we are, **About Whoever** indisputably tells about us.*

Author Karen Sinclair earned her Master of Science degree from The City University in London, England, Bachelor of Social Sciences degree from the University of Guyana and Certificate in Lay Ministry from the United Methodist Church in America. Karen lives in New Jersey, USA.

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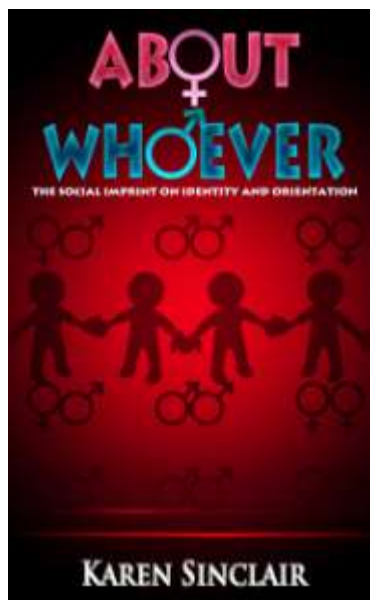
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karen Sinclair is an Analyst who contributes in the social sciences and humanities. Her recent book, **About Whoever, The social imprint on Identity and orientation**, attempts to bridge the gulf separating conflicting views on the matter using techniques of analysis. In addition to the social analysis in **About Whoever**, Karen has written other books including *Little Polka Sock*, an illustrated children's story book that seeks to support socioemotional nurturing through story telling. It is her vision to contribute to progress and harmony in various dimensions of human life. Karen lives in New Jersey, USA, with her family.

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FEEDBACK FROM OUR READERS

Comments on the June 2016 edition

"Yango has asked to pass on his congratulations to you on a great edition of the Diaspora Times."

Dixie

"Very good pictures, particularly of the Jubilee flag-raising ceremony and fireworks."

J



Bank of Guyana - Georgetown
Photo by Rex Lucas

JOSEPH “REDS” PERREIRA

TRULY A MAN OF MANY SPORTS

By *Hubert Williams*

Boston, Massachusetts – I believe that I can speak with some authority about a colleague with whom I have maintained a close working relationship for longer than Guyana has been an Independent country... and I have watched him grow to the point where he eventually stamped his imprimatur on the treasured pages of international sport. Thus, I salute Joseph “Reds” Perreira for the achievement of another remarkable milestone on the challenging stage of life: His 77th birthday, and, earlier, his very interesting autobiography, “Living My Dreams”.

“Reds” Perreira’s greatest assets in the highly competitive world of broadcast journalism have been his boundless enthusiasm, unflagging energy, an insatiable appetite for all forms of sport, and a high regard for the public’s right to be well informed, in addition to his abiding interest in helping to guide successive generations of Guyanese and West Indian sportsmen and sports journalists.

It was this broad sweep, these wide interests, the expansive knowledge which contributed so substantially towards enriching the manner of his commentaries on matches from the most famous cricket stadiums across the world.

And whatever may be said of his style, he was without doubt among the best the Caribbean has produced over the past 50 years.

Indeed, when first I heard mention of names like Arthur Ashe, Althea Gibson, Cassius Clay, Evander Holyfield, and so many others before they had even emerged, through mention of them by “Reds” Perreira, they were still relative unknowns to the world’s sports fans.

And it might well have been “Reds” Perreira who started the practice during commentaries on Test Cricket of regularly updating listeners on what was happening in other areas of sport around the world.



Joseph “Reds” Perreira & Mrs. Zandra Perreira

He began to embrace sport when quite young and participated in a number of disciplines, which one day long ago prompted a comment steeped in envy that “Reds” Perreira wants to be everybody and to play everything.

But that was the basis on which his wide knowledge was developed: and so the restless youth who wanted to be everybody and play everything, transformed himself into a respected commentator on international cricket, boxing, golf, football, hockey, athletics, cycling, and in other areas. He has lived in Guyana, England, Holland, Surinam and the wide Caribbean.

Further, for one whose career – his very livelihood – depended on speech, to me, “Reds” Perreira’s greatest achievement is that he was able to conquer the very difficult speech impediment of stammering. To many people who so suffer, it presents a serious

difficulty, and they also find it embarrassing. I have found it necessary on a number of occasions to speak about him to stammerers (usually embarrassed over their incapacity for fluency) and have deemed him a classic example of how to overcome stammering through sheer effort and rigid discipline. A young member of the very prominent Goddard Family in Barbados was among several stammerers who I guided towards “Reds” method for considerably improved speech.

In my view, “Reds” Perreira is one of the quintessential true Caribbean men in the realm of sport; but it is not always that the deeds he has done become public knowledge. I well remember the day in 1986 when it was announced that Shell Antilles & Guianas Ltd. had lost its long (I think 21 years) sponsorship of regional cricket in the Caribbean, through the Shell Shield tournament.

JOSEPH “REDS” PERREIRA

Immediately the announcement reached international cricket centres, “Reds” Perreira telephoned me from Bombay (now Mumbai), India, where he was on tour with the West Indies Team, to say that what seemed a public relations setback for Shell could be turned into a great opportunity for Shell and Caribbean Football.

He said he would immediately contact Tony Walcott of Shell in Barbados; and so it was, from across the world, that he set about disseminating his ideas to assist in transforming seeming adversity into a remarkable new era of relative prosperity and rapid growth in regional football.

So far as I am aware, no public credit ever came his way for that initiative.

However, his passion for excellence in Caribbean sport is globally acknowledged. And it was from him that had come one of the most commanding presentations to Chairman Sir Shridath Ramphal and the West Indian Commission during a session in Barbados in the early 1990s about the deteriorating fortunes of Caribbean sport, particularly cricket, and

the sort of action programme he was recommending for rapid improvements.

William Gilbert Demas, then President of the Caribbean Development Bank and a member of the Commission, afterwards said he had been very impressed with what “Reds” said.

When the Caribbean Community Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana, decided to establish a Sports Desk and appoint a Sports Coordinator of global renown, I spoke directly to the then Secretary General and recommended “Reds” Perreira as the most suitable candidate for the position. Eventually, the illustrious Barbadian (now Knight and National Hero) Garfield Sobers was preferred.

Eventually, the Secretariat of the fledgling Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) moved similarly and at a three-person meeting in the home of the CDB President attended also by then Secretary General of the OECS Secretariat, I convincingly made the case that “Reds” Perreira was the perfect candidate for that job. The decision was “tell him to apply”.

"Reds" undertook that task with great ideas, dedication, unbounded zeal, good contacts in sporting and private sector boards; and the sub-region has hailed his work as an outstanding success. Indeed, all quarters in Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Montserrat and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have publicly acknowledged the great difference in their sports performance and development since what I tend to refer to as "the coming of "Reds".

The entire region recognizes the remarkable results. The great thing about his relocation to St. Lucia and the OECS was that the governments, private sector, leaders of national sports organizations and the public all warmed to his ideas and bubbling enthusiasm and readily gave their support. Thus, I take pride in saying that sporting activities in the Eastern Caribbean sub-region were transformed under "Reds" Perreira's watch.

Another outstanding initiative was his establishment of the Joseph "Reds" Perreira Foundation in Guyana, our contradictorily rich yet relatively impoverished nation which has been persistently squandering so much of its material and human resources.

Under the programme, princes in the kingdom of Caribbean sport such as Sir Garfield Sobers, Sir Wesley Hall, Sir Vivian Richards, Mr. Brian Lara have been involved in visits to Georgetown to interact with, advise and seek to inspire today's youth... an initiative worthy of wholehearted support.

And now, as I conclude, I make reference to the beginning of our friendship: Over all the years - the full half century of Guyana's Independence - (and in our various points of interaction in Guyana and then Barbados), it is the circumstances of our very first meeting that remain the most dramatic and are very likely the true basis of our strong bonding.

I was sitting at a desk in the Editorial Department of the Guiana Graphic at Lama Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown, and looking across the room upon a scene as it unfolded. A young man with red hair had walked up to the desk of Sports Editor Rickford Ferrier, handed him a two-page hand-written document, and stood there in eager anticipation.

Rick Ferrier read it, crumpled it up in his two hands, then tossed the 'crump' into the wastepaper basket. I saw his tears as the disappointed youth stood there dumbfounded, then turned away, left the Department and exited the building.

I went over to Ferrier, picked the 'crump' out of the wastebasket, told him what I thought of his action, and ran outside to intercept the young man. He had retrieved his bicycle and was just about to mount. I invited him to come back inside with me.

Back at my desk with him, he talked animatedly, though somewhat haltingly with the stammer, about the match he had witnessed that afternoon at the Georgetown Football Club, involving Santos Football Club, of which he was coach.

As he talked, I refined and typed; where after Rickford Ferrier was persuaded as to the merit of the report and carried it on the following day's sport page with the byline "Joseph 'Reds' Perreira" - his first.

It is that deeply committed, enthusiastic and very passionate young man who has developed into an icon of Caribbean sports broadcast journalism and acclaimed sports organiser, and to whom I say: Congratulations to you, "Reds", for the heights you have attained...

One day I would like to see published those many photographs which I have seen of you and some of the outstanding global personalities you have met during your long career... to one of whom, Mohammad Ali, we recently said goodbye.

By Hubert Williams

Hubert Williams is a distinguished and experienced writer for news and literary organs in Guyana, the Caribbean and further afield.

TRULY A MAN OF MANY SPORTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY SWOT ANALYSIS

The Diaspora Team

26 YEARS

1966

PNC

50 YEARS—GUYANA SWOT ANALYSIS

1992

50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

23 YEARS

PPP

2015

APNU/AFC

1966

2016

What have we achieved as a Nation? - People are leaving the country. (Similar to leaving a badly managed company because of poor benefits and salary)

We are stuck in a time warp where one political party blames the other and claim they would need time to fix the mistakes of the previous administration—a cycle of lethargy.

CURRENT GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA 2016

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRESIDENT • FIRST VICE PRESIDENT • PRIME MINISTER • MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY • ATTORNEY GENERAL / MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS • MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY • MINISTER OF FINANCE • MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS • MINISTER OF EDUCATION 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINISTER OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE • MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH • MINISTER OF SOCIAL PROTECTION • MINISTER OF COMMUNITIES • MINISTER OF TOURISM • MINISTER OF SOCIAL COHESION • MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE • MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS • MINISTER OF INVESTMENT & BUSINESS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MINISTER OF GOVERNANCE • MINISTER OF CITIZENSHIP • MINISTER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION • 2 MINISTERS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE • MINISTER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH • MINISTER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION • MINISTER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITIES • 2 MINISTERS WITHIN MINISTRY OF FINANCE
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RECENT CIA METRICS

Total Population—750,000

Total Area—83,000 sq miles
Total Land Area—76,000 sq miles
Total Water Area—6,996 sq miles
Agriculture Land—8.4%
Forest Land—77.4%
Other Land—14.2%

Irrigated Land 552 sq miles
Coastline—285 miles

Lowest point—0 Feet
Highest Point—9,301 Feet

GDP Per Capita—\$7,200 US
Unemployment Rate—11.1%
Revenues—\$805.8 Million US
Expenditures—\$940 Million US
Public Debt—67.4% of GDP

Exports—\$1.096 Billion US
Imports—\$1.251 Billion US

External Debt—\$2.303 Billion US
Exchange Rate \$1US = 206.5 G

INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Strategic Location Bauxite Gold Diamonds Timber Shrimp Fish Large Land Mass Forests Ethnic Diversity Stable Climate Water Bio Diversity Waterways Young Population English Speaking Oil? 	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antiquated Colonial Laws Constitution Economic Growth Small Population Energy Production Telecommunications Media Standards Transportation Infrastructure Airlift Capacity Social Values Ethnic Tension Political Culture Political Tension Corruption Poverty Security Crime Health Care Sugar Industry Too many non working Days Drainage & Irrigation Environmental Protection Business Climate Work Force Settlement Patterns Coastal Agriculture Challenging Terrain
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Manufacturing Agriculture Overseas Developers Investment Partners Markets for Goods & Services Alternative Industries Structural Change Renewable Energy Production Leapfrog Technology Information Technology Small Enterprise Development Public Sector Reform Human Resource Development Education Improvement Health Services Social Services Sports Development 	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration Resource Exploitation Drug Smuggling Flooding IMF IDB World Bank Imports Aid Agencies Bilateral Aid Rising Sea Levels Remittances Territorial Disputes

5/3/16 DRAFT REV 4

INTERNAL	<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Strategic Location Bauxite Gold Diamonds Timber Shrimp Fish Large Land Mass Forests Ethnic Diversity Stable Climate Water Bio Diversity Waterways Young Population English Speaking Oil? 	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antiquated Colonial Laws Constitution Economic Growth Small Population Energy Production Telecommunications Media Standards Transportation Infrastructure Airlift Capacity Social Values Ethnic Tension Political Culture Political Tension Corruption Poverty Security Crime Health Care Sugar Industry Too many non working Days Drainage & Irrigation Environmental Protection Business Climate Work Force Settlement Patterns Coastal Agriculture 	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Strengths (internal, positive factors) Strengths describe the positive attributes, tangible and intangible, internal to your organization. They are within your control.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Weaknesses (internal, negative factors) Weaknesses are aspects of your business that detract from the value you offer or place you at a competitive disadvantage. You need to enhance these areas in order to compete with your best competitor.</p>
EXTERNAL	<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Manufacturing Agriculture Overseas Developers Investment Partners Markets for Goods & Services Alternative Industries Structural Change Renewable Energy Production Leapfrog Technology Information Technology Small Enterprise Development Public Sector Reform Human Resource Development Education Improvement Health Services Social Services Sports Development 	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration Resource Exploitation Drug Smuggling Flooding IMF IDB World Bank Imports Aid Agencies Bilateral Aid Rising Sea Levels Remittances 	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Opportunities (external, positive factors) Opportunities are external attractive factors that represent reasons your business is likely to prosper.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Threats (external, negative factors) Threats include external factors beyond your control that could place your strategy, or the business itself, at risk. You have no control over these, but you may benefit by having contingency plans to address them if they should occur.</p>

Refer to the APNU + AFC Joint Manifesto 2015 for their Strategic Plan for Unity, Stability & Development.

Are they following the plan so far?

APNU + AFC JOINT MANIFESTO 2015

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THE CHEEK SHEATHED TONGUE

By Marc Matthews

One Act Play

The Two Bills are sitting drinking beer in kitchen a open 'tablet' is on table....

Sensible Bill

hear!

Yu sey yu lookin' to get into some gold transportation business an yu don' see, wuh mek yu have fuh part wit any 'bread' fuh no licence. in adda words is smuggle yu wan' smuggle rite?!

Well the numba WAN an, ah talking in capitals jus so yu get, the importance of wuh ah seying.

NUMBA WAN yu gat fuh keep in min' especially if-in yuh want avoid doing time fuh the 'crime You have to Fin' ...First and Forward-most a, expert lawyer. ah mean, Xpert.. seasoned in the fine art of hypnotic gesturing like Mandrake, cause, yu see no matter if wuh you plan to do would under regular common law, count as 'tiefing', wit a set a legal slight of mind plus a lille blurring an blustering cookup, will, guarantee at the finalé what magic-man call 'The Prestige' when d-object in all its mesmerising glory is revealed as being mere illusion, a proper con, by which time the audience already get shaft and you walk way packet in d-wallet, verdict not guilty, well moe like unproved as such.

Chupidee Bill

Ah! ah now seeee wuh uh ah did leff out when ah did advising Mannie d-adda day. Ah go haffa straten he out cause ...

Sensible Bill

Wuh yu talkin bout? what dis gat fuh do wit Mannie?.

Chupidee Bill

Ah did tell Mannie, dat if he do like how dem foreign cigarette people does do, yu know; like how dem gat print bigbig pun d-packaging SMOKING KILLS yu know, an just like d-ole bible people dem sey 'D-Truth does set yu Free' dem don' get no police aggro. only ting doh, is ganga don' kill none body so i did tell he fuh, fancy up he portion packets like, an in capital letters GANGA SUPA RELAXES. Yu know wuh ah mean..den nobody could sey dat wuh he selling 'commit ah ah..... is a wuh yu did call um?

Sensible Bill

Wuh? call wuh? wuh yu talkin' bout?

THE CHEEK SHEATHED TONGUE CONT'D

Chupidee Bill

man um rite dea.. in duh piece you read out jess now. wuh yu did sey some jokey antiguan bannuh did write in d- papers from pananma. man... bout people hiding up dem dunzi from d-tax man an how is a frenzy... you did sey dat doh everybody know, is a lawlessness wuh goin on, but, like the Jokey bannuh sey witout evidence is nothing..... im... im..aaah aham im.. someting or d-adda wasn' going on..immm... ahm...aaah

Sensible Bill

Impropriety?

Chupidee Bill

DUH IS UM, DUH IS UM,DUH IS UM... IM PRO PRY E T nice word dat' IM PRO PRY E T ; nice like um; IM PRO PRY E T

But now; how yu explain wuh mek dem obliged..like yu tell me i gat fuh do yu know.. fuh get wan ah dem big time lawyer...boy look at dat EH! IM PRO PRY E T BOSS WORD DAT BILL. BOSS WORD; but bout dis law ting, is who think up duh eh? IM PRO PRY E T.

YES! IM PRO PRY E T Dat is wuh yu call WORD. IM PRO PRY E T read duh piece again..it really sound krisp.early early is jus' before... ummm from wait wait wait ..ahm aham yes..You should take note...nah, nah... yes! noted. yes. dat is it...someting noted..should ... IM PRO PRY E T.....IM PRO PRY...

Sensible Bill: puts beer aside and reads from lap top...

wait is whole day ah gat fuh put up wit you an dat

Chupidee Bill

IM PRO PRY E T

Sensible Bill: scrolling through article on computer

BANNUH... DONE NUH.....is Hea yu mean?..... It should be noted,....

Chupidee Bill

Duh is um Duh is um..go lang read um read read um

It should be noted,however, that there has been no evidence of direct connections to companies and bank accounts by these people. Neither has there been any evidence of illegal behaviour or wrongdoing specifically by them. Some media are feeding a frenzy because mentioning well-known names helps to create and sustain a story that suggests impropriety.

...IM PRO PRY E T..WICKED...YEA ... It should be noted, noted ah like duh an... suggests IM PRO PRY E T....WICKED BANNUH WICKED...DUH could mek kyso..(sings "when ah tell she/ siddown pun me knee/ she say dat suggests IM PRO PRY E T)nice eh!? IM PRO PRY E T. how it sound?

THE CHEEK SHEATHED TONGUE CONT'D

Sensible Bill

yea yea it soun' arite..RITE.Well you ain't go done. wit dat now is whole day ah go haffa put up wit dat.....

Chupidee Bill

IM PRO PRY...

Sensible Bill

B A N N U H .

Chupidee Bill

Ahrite Ahrite...But bout dis law ting doh, yu know i does sometime wonda....like d-adda day mekin' lille tea an ah ask myself who, an' how um was, dat, dat fus body like sey, watch a cow, an sey' ah go drink d-milk? eh? yu know jus fuh think up..

Sensible Bill

Dem jus falla-pattern d-calf man.

Chupidee Bill

So who dem falls-pattern fuh dis law ting den?

Sensible Bill

Bannuh duh Law profession ting is real ole time 'BOARDS' story yea; um did get born, wuh yu would call a sort a figment, from some ole time tief-man devious imagination which-in ain't no different from now.

Chupidee Bill

But dat don' mek no sense, cause ah cyan see wuh would mek tief man as yu sey even think bout a way fuh lock up fuh tiefing? duh sound contrary..

Sensible Bill

Causing, yu see is only who think fuh tief does invent way fuh prevent dem mirrored tiefing self from, doing what dem own self indulgent self does do. Get d- drift?!. So it come natural.dem have to invent boogaloo an' as, -batty invent poe, - nex' tief man obliged fuh invent a counta strategy blockin nex' tief man like heself tiefing from he. Duh is wuh mek dem have whole library walls to wall ah law strategy manuscripts, mausoleums ah, scrolls ah 'legal fantasy' and potent argument for and against. Con and Constant.um did get born, wuh yu would call a sort a figment, from some ole time tief-man devious imagination which-in ain't no different from now.

THE CHEEK SHEATHED TONGUE CONT'D

Chupidee Bill

So wuh mek all body na do dat den.

Sensible Bill

Dunzi. bannuh is always d-scratch, d-pisa, d-shekles, d-bread.. an we get learn good good how not fuh truss wan ananda... nat till some kinna disasta lick we...an even den we learn fuh fugget quick quick.

Doh jus d-adda day; ah read ah ting seying dat dem have, a village somewey in englan' whea all d-small business people get fed up paying some ;loud ;loud tax all d-while how dem big boys gettin' way without paying d-rightful tax some ain't paying none atall-atall... so dem teks it pun dem self fuh ban' t'edda an go fin' out how fuh do um..dem end up in holland whea dem have a set a lawyer dem, who mek a study how fuh mek illegal legal..cost ah heap ah bread to rantid.. betta believe um.

Funny people inna dis worl' eh! ? eh!?

THE TINNIN BEN' AND STORY *END*

By Marc Matthews

Poet, author, dramatist, storyteller and member of the 'Dem Two' and 'We Three' casts. Marc resides in London, England.

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