



Mt. Roraima



## Bauxite project for Bonasika-Cuyuni-Mazaruni

**Georgetown, Guyana:** Minister of State, Mr. Joseph Harmon, received a courtesy call from Executive members of the First Bauxite Corporation (FBX) at the Ministry of the Presidency, where he was updated on their project at Bonasika in Cuyuni-Mazaruni (Region Seven), which is due to begin next year with an investment of approximately US\$50M.

During the meeting, Mr. Alan Roughead, President and Chief Executive Officer of FBX, told Minister Harmon that the company is looking forward to starting construction of the project next year and production 12 months thereafter. The Project is expected to provide employment for over 150 Guyanese. FBX commenced feasibility work on the Bonasika Project in 2008. Since then the company has expended US\$20M on developing the bauxite resource located in this area and has completed three feasibility studies. The company has also conducted two major production trials in Guyana over the past two years.

Minister Harmon said that the Government welcomes the investors and looks forward to the employment opportunities, which will be created for Guyanese, once the project is up and running. He noted that Guyana is always open for investment and to create a more conducive environment for business, he said that the administration is currently working to put systems in place, which can ensure that the bureaucracy associated with investments are reduced.

“We are committed to investment in Guyana. We are on a [See page.....2](#)



*From left: Mr. Robert Corbin, Mr. Larry Washow, Minister of State, Mr. Joseph Harmon*

## Tony Jones candidate for Methuen City Council

*By: TNR Staff*

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017 residents of Methuen, Massachusetts will go to the polls to elect a new Mayor and City Council.

A similar display of civic engagement is expected to occur across the United States of America. Indeed, millions of eligible voters will cast ballots and in doing so not only elect their lawmakers to legislatures but in exercising the franchise, preserve the



*Tony Jones- Candidate*

preeminent ingredient in the American experiment of democracy.

The current Mayor, Stephen Zanni will not seek another mandate, having served two consecutive two-years, he is prevented from doing so because of term limit. That scenario is also applicable to several City Councilors.

Those vacant seats on the City Council have rendered it possible for newcomers to get involved in the political process without the arduous task of running against incumbent and entrenched politicians.

Among the candidates seeking to fill one of the vacated seats, is the Executive Director of the Centre for Social Justice and Development Inc. (CSJAD). Guyanese born Tony Jones.

Mr. Jones is known within the Guyanese Diaspora communities for his political and social activism. The former president of the Guyana Cultural Association of Montreal (GCAM) is no stranger to politics. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Notre Dame de Grace Local Community Health Center (CLSC) in public elections, which were mandated by the [See page.....2](#)

## Guyana: Klepto-capitalism

*By: A. Smith*

General Elections 2020 is a mere 30 months or so away, and you can bet your shrinking dollar that many people will be caught fiddling! And I do not mean just ordinary fiddling by ordinary people, but rather, big-time fiddling by big-time fiddlers, fiddling in very important matters. Or, on the other hand (and here you must ignore your ever-caring politician’s question of “on whose other hand) not really fiddling, but fumbling, and foot-dragging on significant issues vital for this nation’s very survival.

Well, it does not matter, fiddling, fumbling or foot-dragging, the consequences of these actions or inactions can only be tsunamic, and will determine if this apparently blighted land of ours will ever progress, or retrogress, or remain in its half-way state of Limboland.

If asked, most political leaders in this country will without hesitation shout, or mouth, that he/she desires the best for Guyana, that its development is their utmost priority. Some, no doubt, are like Humpty Dumpty who said, “When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean- neither more nor less.” Most times that would mean “more” self-enrichment. And more so now that oil is on the horizon, lots of people are drooling themselves to severe dehydration by just imagining those petro-dollars with which they would love to rehydrate, or rather lubricate, their insatiable innards.

Others, in response, will only hiss between their dentures in irritation, and, like the dog, in the story, just close their eyes and continue to recline upon the hay. And exactly what intricate processes these fiddlers employ, what various masterpieces of plans they conceive and implement, in their quest to “develop” [See page.....2](#)

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## Tony Jones candidate for Methuen City Council

(Continued from cover page) government of Quebec. He was also elected a Board member of the Notre Dame de Grace Riding Association of the Quebec Liberal Party. Tony was also elected Chairman of the Anglophone Committee of the Ethnic Group Commission of the Quebec Liberal Party.

In 1995, despite running in an area predominated by whites because of a strategic alliance with several established Irish and Scottish groups, Tony managed to secure enough votes to defeat seven of the eight candidates in the race- Director of NDG, CLSC. He was also elected delegate to attend the last Policy Convention of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Tony is a member of the Methuen Democratic City Committee.

The City of Methuen has a population of about fifty thousand (50,000) residents. The city is administered by a Mayor and City Council. They are all elected by registered voters to serve a two-year term with the option of a second mandate after which he/she is proscribed due to term limit. Methuen city government consists of a mayor, three Councilors-at-Large, two East District councilors, two Central District councilors, two West District councilors, and six School Committee members.

“I am working very hard to secure a seat on the Council not only to offer new ideas but demonstrate that with diversity and inclusiveness socio-cultural and economic progress can be enhanced. While the challenge is arduous, victory is definitely not insurmountable. However, to secure election success, it will require financial and in-kind donations from all quarters,” noted Mr. Jones.

The Central District is a macrocosm of the city’s population. This middle class suburb north of Boston, has several racial and ethnic groups. These include among others white that represent 70.3 percent of the population. Hispanic or Latino 23.3 percent, African-American or Black that make up 1.6 percent. Therefore, the demographics as they are currently, necessitate that for minority candidates, success will require garnering significant support from white residents.

The Committee to elect Jones, has already canvassed about forty percent of the homes of Precinct 1, 2, 6, and 10 within the Central District. The goal is to knock on doors of each household before Election Day, which is now less than three months away.

Of course, finance plays an important aspect in running a successful political campaign and the challenge before the Committee is to raise a substantial amount of monetary donations in an effort to conduct a credible and albeit viable operation if we are to celebrate victory on election night.

It is precisely that reason, the Committee to elect Jones is soliciting your financial assistance, and suggests that you give generously to our political endeavor.

Your monetary contribution will help acquire much-needed campaign necessities among them are... brochures, fliers, political signs, hosting related events, purchasing radio and newspaper advertisements and effectively canvassing every neighborhood and community organization.

**Publisher’s note:** You should make checks or money orders payable to the ‘Committee to elect Jones.’ You will receive a prompt acknowledgement of your generosity. We thank you in advance for your encouragement and support. Kindly, forward all correspondences to... P.O. Box 1056, Methuen, MA, U.S.A. 01844. Email us at... [electjones@yahoo.com](mailto:electjones@yahoo.com). Also, remember to visit or Facebook page and Like us.

Cut and paste URL:

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## Bauxite project for Bonasika-Cuyuni-Mazaruni



Minister Joseph Harmon peruses Project document

(Continued from cover page) path of fresh approaches as the Minister of Finance loves to say and we want to expedite the systems so that it does not hinder investments. The quality of services must be improved,” he said.

Mr. Larry Washow, Chairman of the Board of FBX, Mr. Bill White, Chief Financial Officer of FBX, Mr. Stanley Ming, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) and Mr. Robert Corbin, Legal Counsel of the company, also attended the meeting.

## Guyana: Klepto-capitalism

(Continued from cover page) this country? Well, for starters, these brainers just bicker non-stop, they posture, they blunder, they oppose more than propose, they plunder, they assume massive self-righteousness and enormous egos, and some become puppets, some royalties, and some “chatrees” in a multi-ethnic land.

Then some just swoon in their fantasy world where they actually believe that it is their birth-right to forever rule, or ruin. Yet again, there’s some who would stamp their feet and slap their chests and pledge their hearts to Marxist/Leninist ideals, but ironically, and hypocritically, they submerged this country into a nightmarish state of klepto-capitalism, one of the “isms” that they perfected. And still again there are others who do not seem to have a clue as to what to do to govern. They just lie smug on their crumpled laurels. These gangs of self-servers in their wonder worlds only serve to add a massive burden upon this hapless land.

So how do we, the ordinary, decent, honest, fair-minded rest of us who are struggling to remain sane in these insane times, snatch this country back from the inevitable jaws of self-destruction? Certain obstacles can be easily identified, such as a flawed Constitution, massive corruption, racism, pseudo-patriotism, visionless leadership, and even an ex-president who pines for another term.

These problems, although they are difficult ones, are not insurmountable, and solutions can be found in the short(ish) term. The bigger problem, however, and the long term one, is how do we fix, or change the various systems, whatever they are: the Social, the Political, the Educational, the Economical, the Psychological, the Moral, the Cultural, the Etc., that were allowed to slide into chaos and thus created such fertile ground that gave birth to citizens who would explicitly sanction evils like racism, corruption, greed and their accompanying ills as acceptable norms?

Or produce a people that would unflinchingly vote for certain characters who are perceived as the personification of such evils as mentioned above, to be their leaders or even president? This is the Gordian knot which must be untied urgently if our children and grandchildren are to inherit a decent country to live in the future. The question is who will be our Alexander?

**MAY 12TH 2015**  
**MARKS THE**  
**DAWN OF A**  
**NEW ERA**  
**A PHASE OF**  
**ENLIGHTENMENT**  
**WHEREBY THINGS HUMANLY**  
**POSSIBLE ARE**  
**ACCOMPLISHED BY ALL**

**Remember Change**  
**Begins From Within**  
**Each Of Us**  
**Join Other**  
**Concerned**  
**Nationals And**  
**Fashion The**  
**New Guyana!**

*Five decades later, the real cause of the explosion on board the Son Chapman and those responsible for its detonation are yet to be determined. This inaction-the absence of a final resolution has prompted calls for an inquiry into the tragedy. The first terrorist act in Guyana, which resulted with 43 people being killed.*

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**JUST MY OPINION - Guest Columnist**

**Show us the ExxonMobil deal**

By: Adam Harris

Guyana is on the cusp of becoming an oil-producing nation. About three years ago ExxonMobil announced that it had made a significant discovery offshore Guyana. I remember when then President Donald Ramotar reported to the nation that Guyana was ready to move ahead. Indeed, Guyana is now rated a middle income country, but if you are to talk to any Guyanese you would hear them deny that Guyana is a poor country. It does not have the skilled people necessary to take advantage of the jobs that are going to be opened up.

Some have already gained low-level jobs with the oil company and the University of Guyana is now preparing to train engineers for the oil sector. Last week ExxonMobil announced that it was taking about a dozen Guyanese to train them in the United States.

But while all this is happening, the people are not really sure what the future of oil holds for them. They heard that the previous administration had signed an agreement that secured a one per cent royalty. The details of this agreement were never made known, but from what happened later when the current administration renegotiated the contract, it was able to get a slightly better royalty rate. The government also announced that it has secured fifty per cent of the proceeds after expenses.

There was no further release of the contract. The nation had been reading about the exploits of ExxonMobil around the world. There was talk that the oil company left some countries in no better condition than when it began to extract oil. The reason cited was corrupt officials who simply reached out to the oil company for their personal aggrandizement. But if there was enough from the oil, then it would be difficult to see the leaders pocketing so much money.

Guyana is on the world stage as one of the most corrupt nations, so the rest of the world does not really expect to see Guyana develop. But this time around the current administration is seen as less corrupt, so one would expect the nation to enjoy the benefits from the oil discovery. Yet the way things are, it is as if the people are not important to whatever is being discussed between the government and the oil company.

I remember talking to Opposition Leader Bharrat Jagdeo about the coming

of ExxonMobil. He told me that there was some skepticism on the part of ExxonMobil about investing US\$150 million in the search for oil. It was then that I realized that technology can play an important part in any development. There were many oil explorers, but nine had the capability of going as deep as ExxonMobil. The fact is that where they said that no oil existed, ExxonMobil showed that there were millions of barrels. Given the technology, Guyana could have been an oil-producing nation decades ago, and one can only dream about what might have been.

Is Mr. Jagdeo taking some credit for the oil find? Perhaps. But he never released the contract that he signed. The new government promised to be transparent, but all of a sudden it is saying that it cannot disclose the oil contract at this time. And as fate would have it, former Attorney General Anil Nandlall is insisting that it could. What the government could not do in the past is still a secret. I never understood confidentiality clauses. I could understand if there are going to be challengers for the right to explore and produce the oil and gas. But with the agreement in place, I cannot see that happening unless Guyana wants to be black-listed.

The good thing is that the nation is not sitting back and allowing the secrecy to go unchallenged. It has also challenged ExxonMobil to talk with us, a challenge that is still to be accepted. I cannot understand why the oil company cannot say what it is doing. After all, we are a bit of insignificant people in a corner of the world that many people have never heard of. At least that is what ExxonMobil once thought, until the reality slapped it in the face.

We may not know anything about marketing oil, but we know what a fair share is in any partnership. We have heard that Guyana will get fifty per cent of any oil that comes to the surface after expenses, but we do not know what the expenses are. Is ExxonMobil opening its books to the government? And if so, do our auditors have the knowledge to read and understand what is presented to them?

It would be nice if the government could explain to us whether it is being kept abreast of the expenses being created by ExxonMobil. These are things that could be checked, since oil **See page.....6**

**Why Defer Today's Possibility for the Uncertainty of Tomorrow**

**Delivering direct help**

It is now common practice for residents of North American and European environments to frequently remit money and send barrels and boxes to relatives and friends who are still living in Guyana.

Those remittances and relays are normally done via household to household transactions, or via Service Organizations' donations.

Those delivery methods have been flooded with complaints about the relays not getting to their destinations; or not being delivered in the intended manners.

Thus, I was happy to learn that members of New York's Queens College Alumni Association had travelled to Guyana in order to directly teach a cross-section of that South American's country's High-School population.

By this direct method, the Association is ensuring that its contributions are doing what they were destined to do.

For the second consecutive summer, the Queen's College of Guyana Alumni Association (NY), Inc. (QCAANY) will be hosting its Queen's College Summer Maths Institute (QCSMI) at Queen's College, Camp Street, Georgetown.

The target group of this programme is rising third and fourth form students from Queen's College, Tutorial High School, Bishops' High School, and Saint Stanislaus College.

The institute aims to sustainably implement a developmentally-appropriate and culturally resonant middle school learning environment that engages Guyanese students in a cognitively rich mathematics learning experience.

That experience is intended to affirm and align with their cultural and social identities and places them securely on pathways to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) excellence.

The objectives of the QCSMI are to:

- Attract high school students in Georgetown to mathematical sciences and to motivate them to excel in the subject,
- Introduce high school students and their parents to the notion of mathematics as theory.
- Sensitise students and their parents to futures linked with mathematics, including but not limited to careers as mathematicians, math educators, research scientists, computer scientists, economists or business leaders.

A number of field trips are planned as complementary activities which are integral to the QCSMI experience.

This year, like the founding year 2016, the programme will be led by mathematician, Dr. Terrence Blackman, Dean of the School of Science, Health and Technology at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, NY.

*Carlyle Harry*

Now that all the prisoners have been removed from the "cow pasture" at Lusignan, I wish to join the debate because horrible history was made under Ramjattan and Granger over the last few weeks. Guyana is now classified as having one of the worst prison systems in the Caribbean with one of the worst break-out records.

The 2016 prison unrest where 17 prisoners died that should have been the trigger to motivate any portfolio head to more effectively manage the system until the risk levels were de-escalated. Under Ramjattan, the opposite happened over the last 12 months. Under Ramjattan, the conditions for a break out in the prison system actually got worse because of a lack of proper investments and executive lethargy at the policy conception and

implementation levels. For that reason alone, if Ramjattan has any dignity and honour left, he should offer his resignation to the President forthwith. Ramjattan has brought great shame to all his predecessors especially Balram Singh Rai, one of Guyana's foremost intellect and most celebrated Home Affairs Minister.

Under the government of which Ramjattan is a Vice-President, cabinet found the resources to divert billions towards building a billion dollar Durban Park Ponzi Scheme, to fund ministerial travels, the 50% increases in their personal perks and executive vehicles. But even after all that comfort, these people continue to fail the nation on many fronts especially the security front when they presented themselves as the security barons of Guyana on the 2015 campaign trail. The evidence clearly reveals they are security incompetents when it comes to managing the security sector as they continue to mismanage the systems to protect the people of Guyana. For that reason alone Khemraj Ramjattan should go because his poor leadership failed resoundingly to put systems in place to serve and protect the people.

On April 20, 1653, when Oliver Cromwell made a speech upon the dissolution of the Long Parliament, he said these words "Ye are grown intolerably odious to the whole nation; you were deputed here by the people to get grievances redressed, are yourselves gone! So! Take away that shining bauble there, and lock up the doors. In the name of God, JUST GO!"

I am truly disappointed in Ramjattan. He can so better serve the society by going back to the law where he is fantastic rather than cling on to a siren and a portfolio at which he is an utter failure. I am convinced in my belief that he is no longer fit to conduct the affairs of the nation as the Minister of Public Security. As Cromwell said "You have sat too long here for any good. Depart, I say and let us be done with you. In the name of God, JUST GO!"

*Sase Singh*

## Oil wealth only helps if there are honest politicians

I strongly support the views of many citizens relating to the much-anticipated oil wealth that is coming to Guyana. I trust that President Granger will listen to and understand the comments/views of the ordinary man in the street. Because their ideas definitely reflect the concerns of many who are desperate to see our beloved country, Guyana, lifted out of the depths to which it had sunk under the previous administration. I was sent an article recently about the entitlements of Libyans under Col. Gaddafi's rule. It read like a fairy (Nancy) story to a Guyanese like me. That was until I Googled the subject and discovered what benefits were being enjoyed by the citizens of some oil-rich countries like Libya and Kuwait.

I still am not sure of all the 'facts'. My thoughts were however; what would the life of the most underprivileged Guyanese be, if the pending oil revenue was controlled by totally honest politicians who placed the land of Guyana and its people first.

*Keith Fraser*

**CSJAD calls for a National Commission to investigate Racial Unity and an end to Racialized Voting**

**CSJAD Membership is open to Guyanese and their offspring. Support our 2017 fundraising drive**

# Playing a role in Venezuelan crisis

By: Sir Ronald Sanders

Continuing conflict in Venezuela between the government of President Nicolas Maduro and opposition political parties will not be resolved by external forces taking sides.

In this regard, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government were right at their August 8 meeting to reject suggestions that they should adopt pre-conditions for the facilitating role they want to play between the protagonists in Venezuela.

The role of a genuine facilitator is to enable groups of people to achieve their own purpose in their own way. It is not to set the parameters of a dialogue or to take sides or to appear to do so. Any hint of a pre-determined approach to facilitation of a meaningful dialogue would kill it before it starts.

When parties to a conflict are emboldened by external elements, they continue antagonist behaviour in the belief that the force of external pressure will ultimately cause their rivals to succumb. They have no incentive to engage in a dialogue that requires compromise by all sides to be successful.

Those countries or groups of countries that have boldly issued statements of condemnation of the Venezuelan government, as has been done by some members states of the Organisation of American States (OAS), acting on their own, have not helped to create a climate for genuine dialogue between the rival groups in Venezuela. Neither have the members of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), which have consistently defended every action by the Venezuelan government.

The role of governments and hemispheric institutions, recognising that the situation in Venezuela is a contest for power between political parties, should have been constructive in promoting dialogue within a democratic framework, long before the economic circumstances of the country declined as a consequence of the dramatic fall in the price of oil. The economic deterioration is the main contributor to the shortage of food and medicines that plague the country.

But altruism and ethics do not drive the foreign policy of governments. Other considerations, such as ideology, economic self-interest, and, in some instances, control, are the real motors of external policies and actions of governments. All of these elements have been at play with regard to Venezuela.

As part of their arsenal, powerful governments on both sides of the divide in

Venezuela have not been above pressuring others to line-up or agree with them. CARICOM governments have not escaped that pressure.

Fortunately, and admittedly, not without robust debate, CARICOM governments have managed to maintain a commitment to their declared collective desire to play a facilitating role between the parties in Venezuela. However, the stated neutrality of the group is undermined by the participation of some of its member governments in the public declarations of ALBA on the one hand, and a disparate group of countries within the OAS on the other. If CARICOM, as a collective, is to play a neutral and facilitating role in Venezuela, its individual member states have to adhere to that position and refuse to be drawn into the positions of other groups of countries.

There is, of course, no guarantee that CARICOM's offer of facilitation will be accepted by all the Venezuelan parties. The offer is to facilitate "a renewed dialogue and negotiation leading to a comprehensive political agreement with established timetables, concrete actions and guarantees to ensure its implementation for the well-being of the nation". So far, there have been two positive responses – one from the Government and another from one of the Opposition parties – to the offer made on behalf of CARICOM by its current Chairperson, Dr Keith Mitchell, the Prime Minister of Grenada. A third response, while not rejecting the offer, appears to require further clarification.

Until the response to the CARICOM offer is clear, and assuming that it is accepted, no CARICOM country should agree to join declarations of other groups of countries that would serve to impair the neutrality and facilitating role of CARICOM as a whole, however great the pressure.

In this context, it was prudent of four CARICOM governments – Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and St Lucia – not to associate themselves with a declaration issued in Lima on August 8, by 12 member-states of the OAS that gathered (with the CARICOM four) of their own volition in Peru.

Amongst many statements couched in strangely non-diplomatic language, the foreign ministers of 11 Latin American states and Canada called for, among other things, the postponement of a meeting scheduled for October between the European Union (EU) and the 33-member Community of Latin American and Car-

ibbean states (CELAC).

What the 11 Latin American states and Canada (which is not a member of CELAC) believe gives them the right to call for the postponement of a meeting that affects 22 other Latin American and Caribbean countries is baffling. But, it is a measure of how unbalanced and unhelpful the attitude to events in Venezuela has become amid the scenes of violence, arrests of political figures, food shortages and excessive behaviour by both demonstrators and police.

Wisely and probably tactically, the US government did not attend the Lima meeting and was not party to the August 8 Declaration, although it has applied sanctions against leading personalities in Venezuela, including Maduro, over the election of a Constituent Assembly to re-write the country's constitution.

However, the US did not apply sanctions to the Venezuelan oil industry, ostensibly because of harm that banning Venezuelan oil imports would do to 525,000 refining-related jobs and 9 refineries in the US. Six Republican congressmen from Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana wrote a July 28 letter to President Donald Trump expressing fear that "potential sanctions will harm the U.S. economy, impair the global competitiveness of our energy business and raise costs to consumers".

For its part, the CARICOM region has an abiding interest in Venezuela avoiding a massive outflow flow of refugees; curbing violence that could do irreparable damage to the economy and to the capacity of the society to restore its cohesion; and rebuilding a vibrant economy that once played a part in Caribbean economic development and social welfare, and could do so again.

And, in regard to the Venezuelan contention with Guyana over the 1899 Arbitral award that settled their border dispute, Venezuela needs a stable government that can follow a path, in keeping with international law and practice, to end the issue.

Even while recognising that it might fail in its efforts to facilitate a genuine **dialogue between the Venezuelan parties to decide the future of their country, CARICOM must continue to avoid being drawn into the purposes of others.**

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the OAS. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto).*



**Obama Care Lives On:**

*McCain puts Country over Party*

At 1.15 a.m. on Friday, July 28th, Senator John McCain did “another heroic act” when he joined two (female) Republican colleagues in voting against another of his Party’s efforts to repeal Obamacare (the Affordable Care Act).

The Republican failed effort led many opponents to the Bill’s repeal to declare that Friday... “FAILURE-FRIDAY”.

Senator McCain was labelled “a hero and maverick”, because though he was recently diagnosed with ‘brain cancer’, he was prepared to disobey his Medical Doctors’ advice(s) to stay and rest in his home-State, Arizona.

He instead opted to risk mortality, face his Party’s bitter reactions and travelled to Washington in order to participate in the debate. His ‘NO’ vote all but killed that version of the Bill.

In addition, Senator McCain withstood pleas, threats and appeals from the President, the Vice-President, the Leadership of his Party, and other personnel and Interest-Groups, and vote against passage of that version of the repeal Bill.

Senator McCain was rather dramatic in casting his ‘no-vote’ ....He went over to the Democratic side of the Aisle: Sought and got the Clerk’s attention, embraced some of his Democratic colleagues, went on to hug his two (female) Republican colleagues who had already voted against repeal of the Healthcare Bill—then when asked how he was going to vote, he raised his hand and showed a thumb-down—saying “NO”.

Commentators are opining that the defeat of that Republican Bill was another big disappointment for more than seven years of Republican attempts to repeal Obamacare; as well as another blow and setback to the Parliamentary aspirations of President Trump.

Commenting on the defeat of the Bill, President Trump who had earlier indicated that he was waiting to sign an approved version of the Healthcare Bill, again wondered via a tweet, how come the Republicans were once more defeated, when “they held the Presidency; the House; and the Senate”.

- President Trump added “they have been working on healthcare for seven years, can you believe that...boy, oh boy”
- Ann Wagner- Rep. of Montana, claimed “the Senate is unable to take anything to the finish-line”.

After the Bill’s defeat, Democratic Leader in the Senate, Senator Chuck Schumer exclaimed that “it was a turning point in history, an amazing moment, and courageous acts by the three Republicans who voted NO”.

In Summary, The Senate’s dark-of-early morning defeat of the GOP’s effort to repeal Obama’s healthcare law was caused by three Republicans and 48 Democrats.

The so-called ‘skinny repeal bill’ was rejected by a vote of 51-49’.

Senate Majority Leader-Mitch McConnell admitted “this is clearly a disappointing moment, I regret that our efforts were not enough this time”.

***The Future***

Despite the setback, it appears there will be further consideration of Legislative actions to repeal and replace Obamacare. On Sunday July 30th, President Trump via tweets, and his relevant Cabinet Secretaries via the Sunday talk-shows were calling on Republicans in the Senate to continue deliberations towards passing a Healthcare Bill....After all, Healthcare represents one-sixth of the American economy.

The failure of the Republican Party to pass its “skinny”

version of the ACA means that approximately 17 million persons will be able to hold on to their healthcare coverage.

It means that if the Republican Party is so disposed, it will now have to collaborate and negotiate with Representatives of the Democratic Party in order to repair Obamacare.

It is important for this step to be taken, because a recent National poll has reiterated that persons living in America, are primarily concerned about jobs; increased wages; affordable housing; access to cheap or free education; as well as qualitative health-coverage which includes low-priced Doctors’ visits and low-priced prescribed medication(s).

The respondents also pointed out that while 58 countries had universal health coverage, rich United States of America was still debating the topic.

- In casting his deciding vote, eighty-year old Senator McCain urged his fellow Lawmakers to “end political gamesmanship, and work together to fix the U.S. healthcare system, remember the U.S. has a rich history of comity, trust, and bipartisanship”.
- Republican Senator Susan Collins who voted against her Party’s Bill, noted that it was time to identify problem-areas in Obamacare and seek solutions to them.
- Republican Representative for Oklahoma-Steve Russel pointed out to his Republican colleagues “we are all on this plane, and if it crashes, we all go down together”.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Some amount of fear  
has disappeared  
with the retention of Obamacare  
in the American sphere.  
We now wait to hear  
what the future bears.  
The recent senatorial guarantee  
Assured Obama’s Legacy.*

**Show us the ExxonMobil deal**

*(Continued from page.....3)* production is nothing new.

There was a time when foreign companies came to Guyana, got tax concessions beyond the imagination, and left little behind for the Guyanese. Omai Gold Mines extracted tonnes of gold. I remember the late President Cheddi Jagan checking the contract and finding that he could not have got better had he done the negotiating.

The royalty from gold was not bad, but to this day, I believe Guyana gave more than it got. In the end Omai bailed out, but others came in, and working in close proximity to the Omai mines, are doing great. The returns may not be great, but the government is not complaining.

We have not heard anything about concessions for ExxonMobil. Are the concessions hidden in the agreement? We do know that concessions can be elaborate. BaiShanLin got so many concessions that at one time it wanted to import paint that could have painted every house in Guyana, and enough cement to construct hundreds of homes. Fortunately, the government changed, so these concessions were not granted and BaiShanLin soon packed up.

We need to see the contract so that we could indicate whether we are happy. One official once said that Guyana needs ExxonMobil rather than the other way around. That may be the case but then again, we are familiar with our poverty. While we would like to creep out, we are not prepared to prostrate ourselves.

# He met and talked with fools and clowns like himself

*By: Freddie Kissoon*

There is a PPP stalwart that has served in very important state positions for twenty-three consecutive years since the PPP won the 1992 elections until it lost the 2015 poll. This man was a top, trusted mandarin in the PPP government for the twenty-three years it ruled Guyana. He wrote in a published letter recently that he went to the US, and met Guyanese who wouldn't mind coming back, but they have trepidation about the return of authoritarian rule.

And guess what period they are referring to – only that time when the PNC was in power – 1964 – 1992. It means that they treat the 23 years of PPP's hegemony as democratic. This is the second time I have seen a statement like this that is a shameless denial of one of the most controversial periods in the life of this country. I first read words to that effect from the prominent Hindu priest, Aksharananda.

What bothers me is that the two parties in power let these sickening distortions flow in the media without an in-depth, factual, analytical rebuttal. Two reasons explain this. Those who can devastate the nonsense and danger peddled by Aksharananda and this PPP stalwart (I will not name him; the message not the messenger, I'm dealing with) are too busy in their state jobs and cannot find the time.

Someone like Aubrey Norton could easily pen a penetrating dismissal of this man's alternative facts. The other reason is maybe they think that such people are clowns who do not deserve a polemical mention.

People read the letter pages and historians need to eliminate every instance of nasty propaganda by the fallen PPP mandarins. Comparing the Jagdeo regime with the Hoyte era is like matching up a village cricketer with Chris Gayle.

Hoyte had his political superficialities about him. He was not strong on Guyana's sociology and the contours of our history, but Hoyte developed values when he became President that both Jagdeo and Ramotar could never and will never match. Desmond Hoyte was a decent leader who was prepared to discipline his subordinates for moral, legal and political lapses.

There is no doubt in my mind that Forbes Burnham was an oligarchic leader with little tolerance for opposition to his rule. But he had redemptive qualities, one of which was nationalism that was directed to the elevation of the lower income classes. Forbes Burnham would never have tolerated his friend, a businessman, descending onto a work site and instructing his contractors to detain and harass NIS inspectors.

One of Jagdeo's friends did that, and it was only media pressure that caused the police to charge him. God knows what became of that case. Forbes Burnham was too cultivated to allow accusations of domestic abuse to be made against him, the type President Jagdeo's common-law wife leveled against Jagdeo when he was the sitting president.

But I return to this fool of a man who had the temerity to write that the people he met in the US want to see the government initiate constitutional reform that would lead to democratic and inclusionary governance. Are there such idiots in the US with such imbecilic mentalities? If there are, then they surely should be targets for Trump. What happened to constitutional reform and democratic and inclusionary governance during the 23 years when this man and his party ran amok over Guyana?

Those Guyanese that he met, and who want to come back home, are they not concerned about the NIS pension funds – some ten billion (not millions but billions) – that Jagdeo threw away in wasteful ventures? In 2013, NIS paid out more money than it received due to depleted reserves.

Aren't they concerned about the largest investment in Guyanese history that flopped under the PPP – the Skeldon factory that cost 200 million American dollars? Where were these people living during the reign of Jagdeo and Ramotar – August 1999 – April 2015?

This PPP stalwart writes that he spoke to Guyanese who are fearful of the return of bad rule in Guyana. Well, what kind of rule did we have when journalists were attacked and brutalized? A young mother was charged for treason on non-existent evidence. Private newspapers were selected for vindictive treatment.

Of course there is the other side of the coin. Party supporters, without any visible income, were given state jobs and ended up having prodigious wealth. One hopes that the charges will follow soon, so these clowns the fool spoke to can get a glimpse of history.

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## New Demerara River Bridge

*By: KN Staff*

Construction on the long-awaited new Demerara River Bridge, to ease the pressure on the Harbour Bridge, is expected to begin next year, government says.

The Government said it is moving along with its plan to construct a new Demerara River Bridge and will soon commence the process of pre-qualifying contractors for the project.

Through the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, contractors will be pre-qualified for the finance, design, building, and maintenance components of the structure. These works will be procured through public tendering with limited bidders.



*The Demerara Harbour Bridge opened to traffic on July 2, 1978*

The procurement process, a government statement said, will be a two-phase one – the current pre-qualification phase and the bidding phase.

In the pre-qualification phase, three contractors will be shortlisted and requested to submit designs and offer a fixed price lump sum bid for the design and construction of the bridge and approach roads.

“The shortlisting of the bidders shall be on the basis of the profile, track record, financial capacity of the applicant as well as on the merit of the technical, cost and financing proposals presented by applicants in their pre-qualification document.”

Furthermore, in order to improve the funding package, applicants for shortlisting are requested to advance proposals for financing the project.

It was also disclosed that the Request for Pre-Qualification Document will be available for download on the Ministry's website, <http://www.mopi.gov.gy>, from August 21, 2017.

“Contractors must respond by September 4 in order to be considered for participation in the pre-qualification procedure.” The proposed Demerara River Bridge is approximately two kilometres north of the existing floating bridge, spanning from Houston on the eastern bank of the Demerara River to Versailles on the western bank of the Demerara River.

“The new bridge will be an essential part of the road network and will also have a significant impact on marine traffic passing under the bridge.”

The project will involve the construction *See page.....9*

## **OIL WILL NOT SAVE US**

Today we continue to focus on a very important topic that should be of interest to every citizen of Guyana. It is about the recently announced discoveries of more oil by Exxon Mobil and what this means for our country and its people.

To the best of our knowledge, Exxon has stated that the pumping of oil will commence in 2020 – the same year of our scheduled general elections. It means that the oil will be monetized six years after it has been discovered, and it seems that many are hoping the oil revenue would translate into major social and economic development for all. But will it happen?

While the country welcomes the news of the major oil find, which according to Exxon Mobil should be approximately in the tens of millions of gallons from the Liza One and Liza Two oil wells and more recently from the Snoek oil well, the government should guard against being lulled into complacency. And it should not be naive in believing that the revenue generated from oil will end all of the country's current financial woes.

Although the prospects seem quite favourable with the announcement that Guyana would receive 50 percent of the profit from oil, the government is making a terrible mistake by counting its chickens before they are hatched. Several experts have suggested that unforeseen problems could arise that could affect the scheduled pumping of oil in 2020.

One of those problems could be changes in market conditions that could affect the project plans and the overall schedule. Two, price levels for oil on the global market could in the medium and long-term reduce and thus affect the outcome of future exploration and development efforts.

For decades, Guyana has remained dependent on a single-commodity economy, despite numerous proposals, promises and plans by different administrations to achieve greater diversification. It seems that our governments were content to have sugar, rice and bauxite as its three main export products and foreign currency earners. Further, each attempt to set the diversification process in train was truncated by the lack of resources and the failure to attract foreign investors into the country.

Today, the nation's economy is limping because of lower demand and the reduction of prices for its products on the world market. This has led to a loss of revenue and the failure to improve the social services including education and health care.

The government is of the firm view that Guyana's future will be bright with the discovery of oil in large quantities, but even if that is the case, it must still be committed to the diversification of the economy. Or else, the nation's products will remain vulnerable to external shocks brought about by the current downturn of commodity prices on the world market. Considering all of the above, the need for economic diversification is becoming even more critical with each passing year. Since it is not going to happen overnight, the government must continue to aggressively pursue it, particularly as one of its stated goals outlined in its 2015 manifesto.

Many stakeholders, including the private sector commission, have stated that government must develop an economic development strategy with diversification of the economy as the centrepiece. However, identifying, exploring and monetizing new sectors and industries take vision, innovativeness, creativity, responsiveness, transformative leadership and most of all, political will.

Those attributes and aptitudes which are sadly lacking in the country, to further unlock the potential in the people, could eventually stall the diversification process and create underdevelopment. There is a great deal more that needs to be done to

achieve significant advances along the road to economic transformation and diversification.

It appears that the government's primary focus on oil has taken precedence over everything else, but oil will not save us.

## **A new era for broadcasting**

Following a lengthy and bitter debate in Parliament, the Broadcast Amendment Bill 2017 which was introduced by Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo was finally passed. However, the political subterfuge displayed by the opposition in and out of Parliament, clearly justifies why the amendments are needed in the Bill.

Claims by the opposition leader that the Bill would infringe on both the freedom of the press and the private enterprise are dishonest to say the least.

The Prime Minister has made it very clear – and there is a detailed statement in today's edition – that the Broadcast Amendment Bill would repeal the misdeeds of the Broadcasting Act of 2011 which he termed the 'Jagdeo Act', signed into law by Bharrat Jagdeo during his last days in office.

In praising the Bill, many notable media operatives have recognized the need to bring control to the airwaves which they described as the Wild-West.

The new Broadcasting Bill is a breath of fresh air to many, including this media houses and several others, in that it underscores the narrow prism under which the former president acted when he indiscriminately gave away the airwaves to his friends, relatives, and to his party in 2011.

It was a desperate move by a president to make sure that those entities would control the airwaves. His callous distribution of broadcast licences to his cronies had resulted in widespread criticism from several groups, organizations and individuals, including veteran broadcaster and journalist Enrico Woolford, who had moved to the court to have the distributed licences revoked.

That said, the former president, by giving away the airwaves to close associates, acted like an unruly horse that has bolted from the stable of reason. He should be the last person in Guyana to criticize the Bill or the government. For him not to grant broadcast licences to Kaieteur News and Stabroek News, exposed his insularity and prejudice against the two most prominent media houses in the country. Not only did he hijack the licensing process, but his premise that the Broadcasting Amendment Bill has violated the law is absurd, unmeritorious and outright preposterous and should rightly be rejected by all in Guyana, including the press and private organizations.

As president, most of his policies were egregious and several others were discriminatory. They were deemed to be harmful to our fragile democracy.

Many believe that he should be rebuked, if not ostracized for them; for his abuse of power; for being vindictive to those who opposed his views; for contempt of the people and the Constitution and for pauperizing the nation.

If there is a lesson to be learned from his actions while in office, it is that citizens must not allow someone of that nature, the opportunity to have any say in the governance of Guyana.

The opposition leader's absence from Parliament during the debate of the Broadcasting Bill has brought forth a new and different kind of thinking, especially among some members of the opposition. While many of the hardliners in the opposition echoed Jagdeo's sentiments and deemed the Bill as reckless and an infringement on freedom of speech and a violation of the law, yet they have pledged to work together for the good of all in society. The opposition MPs believe that [See page.....15](#)



# Carifesta X111 opens in Barbados

By: *Ranetta La Fleur*

CARIFESTA XIII has officially opened with a parade from Queen's Park to Kensington Oval ground in President Kennedy Drive, Bridgetown Barbados.

The Guyanese delegation headed by Minister of Education, Nicolette Henry, Permanent Secretary, Melissa Tucker, Director of culture, Tamika Boatswain and Director of National Event from MOTP, Colonel Godfrey Bess took to the streets in a kaleidoscope of colour along with the other participants and joyfully marched down the streets.

The Guyana team was arguably the most colourful and energetic. Though the walk was a long haul the jolliness and excitement left the contingents energized.

Prime Minister, Barbados Freundel Stuart, CARICOM Secretary General, Irwin LaRocque, Minister of Culture Youth and Sport, Barbados, Stephen Lashley and other government officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps welcomed the various contingents into the Kensington Oval ground.

LaRocque told the large gathering that CARIFESTA is a force that binds the Caribbean countries and defines them uniquely. He highlighted that CARIFESTA returned to Barbados for the second time since CARIFESTA Four in 1981.

"This year we celebrate 44 years as a Caribbean community and CARIFESTA happened from the beginning...CARIFESTA is a highly valued Caribbean event that is near and dear to our hearts since its inception in 1972 in Guyana...it has given us a platform where we can share and showcase our talents and assert our cultures and celebrate ourselves," LaRocque explained.

The Secretary General highlighted that there is much store for the cultural sector including some US\$2.6M for establishing the Cultural Creative Industries Innovative Fund which will assist the public and private sectors in member states with seed funding for medium, small and micro enterprises in the sector. He added that this boost from the Caribbean Development Bank is just one of the great things for the culture sector.



*One of many costume bands along the parade route*

Meanwhile, Minister of Culture Youth and Sport, Barbados, Stephen Lashley used the opportunity to call on the contingents work even harder for regional integration. He urged the gathering to rededicate themselves to dreams of their forefathers to the dreams of united Caribbean politically, economically and socially.

Lashley noted that though CARIFESTA has had its challenges over the years but the vision never died. "The tenacity of spirits exhibited by leaders in the cultural sphere, successive regional governance and the CARICOM secretariat together permitted CARIFESTA to survive a hiatus of 11 years and return stronger than ever in 1992."

He stated a new strategic direction for CARIFESTA is being sought which is intended to position the festival as world

renowned festival of Caribbean cultural and artistic excellence that brings economic benefits, unites the region and excites all people. "This new strategy demands that we leverage the comparative advantage afforded us by our natural, cultural and human assets for economic development. Indeed, when we reflect- these assets have placed us on the world stage."

In August 2015, Barbados took the baton from Haiti to host CARIFESTA 2017. Lashley thanked the delegation for their patience during the disruption for tropical storm Harvey. He also urged the gathering to enjoy the celebrations.

The Caribbean Festival of Creative Arts (CARIFESTA) was conceived out of an appeal from a regional gathering of artists who were at the time participating in a Writers and Artists Convention in Georgetown, Guyana in 1970 and which coincided with Guyana's move to Republican Status.

The festival will also highlight the diversity of the CARICOM countries while showcasing their rich mutual cultural similarities and put on display the creativity of the Region.

## *New Demerara River Bridge*

*(Continued from cover page)* of an approximately 1,500m long fixed bridge with a movable span and two approach roads of a total length of 600m. It is envisaged that the project will commence in 2018 and will be delivered in 2020.

The current Demerara Harbour Bridge, almost four decades old, has been struggling to take off the daily traffic between West and East Demerara between La Grange and Peter's Hall.

It has been blamed for the traffic woes at peak hours between the East and West Banks of Demerara. The project is a priority one for the administration.

New housing schemes on both sides of the Demerara River have seen an explosion of growth, putting further pressure on the existing bridge. The thousands of vehicles being imported and added to the roads annually have also not been helping the situation.

## *Things the diaspora should know*

I read the piece about the "things" the diaspora should know about a certain columnist. Guyanese who live abroad are already aware of the drawbacks of life in present-day Guyana. Such things are taken very seriously and serve a valid purpose for "staying put" wherever they are at the moment. In my attempt to resettle in Guyana in the mid-1990s, may I mention something not to the fore that irritated many of us returnees – the bad attitude and manners of some shop assistants.

There was a paint shop on one of Georgetown's busiest streets. The serving assistant was in the habit of 'chucking' change at customers, in the manner of throwing a bone to a dog. This was done in full view of the cashier and anyone who happened to be looking on. The first time she did it to me, I decided not to visit that shop again. A few years later, needing to paint the rails on the outside stairway of my home, and not being able to get it from my usual hardware shop, I tried the 'chucking' shop. Once again, she chucked the change at me.

Used to courtesy in shops, this was "too much", and I immediately complained, in her presence, to the chap in charge about the uncouth behaviour of his ragged, dirty-looking woman. I never visited that shop again, and hoped that she acquired some "couth" along the way. I had got used to good manners in shops. Sales depended on attitudes and service of staff.

*Geralda Dennison*

# President has constitutional power to stop police promotions

By: Maxwell E. Edwards, Esq.

The following is a response to the letter by Cherry Devonish, which appeared recently in one of the local newspapers under caption; “The President cannot dictate to a constitutional commission”. Her missive attracted both my commendation, and my rebuke, or reprimand. As I will show herein both insinuations lack merit and cannot be supported in constitutional law.

But, moreover, this letter anticipates and preempts similar criticisms (with less reticence than that of Ms. Devonish) from a certain popular letter writer who has assumed the role of public nemesis of both the Guyana President, and Attorney General.

So, I argue my case that the direction given by the President to the Police service commission (PSC) that “there be no consideration of promotion of members of the Guyana police force until further notice” (what I call an “appointment freeze” directive) is constitutionally permissible on the basis of the following propositions.

First, it is article 212(1) (and not 226(1)) whereby the function, inter alia, to appoint police officers to the rank of Assistant commissioner, senior superintendent, superintendent, deputy superintendent, Assistant superintendent and Inspector are exclusively vested in the PSC. So, any unbiased enquiry as to whether the President has purported to give directions to the PSC in the exercise of that PSC’s functions must necessarily begin with the questions: What are the scope and limit of that function? The fact is, (temporary) appointment freeze by its very nature, self-evidently cannot be, or be understood to be, an appointment as AC, SSP, Supt., DSP, ASP, Insp. as the case may be.

Pro tanto, an appointment freeze or government policy of non-appointment is not within the embrace of the term “to appoint” (article 212(1)) which embraces promotions; and, accordingly an appointment freeze is not a function of the PSC. Paradoxically, an appointment freeze (if that were the internal policy of the PSC) would be an abdication of its function to appoint; and be ultra vires (outside its function).

Second, the PSC is NOT the employer of police officers; the Government is. The President as Head of the executive branch of government has the sole constitutional responsibility and authority by necessary implication of constitutional law (ex necessitate; see articles 89 and 99 as to the President being the supreme executive authority) take such appointment freeze governmental POLICY action. This freeze is an entirely different matter from the PSC’s role as to which individual officer is, or is not appointed. I emphasize that policy is per force an indispensable incident of administration in any field of government. Police appointment is no exception.

Third, in the alternative, the constitutional doctrine of executive privilege or prerogative (known also as public interest privilege) to the extent that it does not encroach on the PSC’s function to appoint in article 212 (1) (as articulated in my first proposition above); or, is not inconsistent with any provision in the Police Act, Cap. 16:01 authorizes and validates the President’s appointment freeze action. (As to the residue of these privileges in our legal system see section 22 of the Civil Law of Guyana Act Cap. 6:01)

Fourth, the question of constitutional law as to whether an appointment freeze action is one within the meaning and ambit of the term “to appoint”; or, is one of permissible governmental policy within the survival or residue of the doctrine of executive privilege, is a NOVEL one for ultimate judicial clarification by the Caribbean Court of Justice (on which opinions may well be

divided). Until such clarification, the President’s action attracts a presumption of regularity; and it appears to have constitutional soundness, (sections 16 & 29 of the IGCA, Cap 2:01 as to the construction of provisions as to functions, offers no insight as to the approach to this novelty).

Fifth, the wording and/or scheme of the constitution itself recognize that both the executive government; and the autonomous PSC have respective functions touching and concerning (potential) appointees. In interpreting and considering the counterpart provision in the Trinidad Constitution in relation to its Police service commission, this is what the Privy Council in the constitutional case of Thomas V. Attorney General (1981) 32 WIR 375 at page 386 said relevantly: “In discussing ... the division of functions between the Governor – general and the Police Service Commission in relation to what in the constitution is called the “police force” ... the functions of the Police Service Commission falls into two classes: ( 1) to appoint officers ... including their transfer and promotion ... and in respect of any matters not dealt with by legislation ( whether primary or subordinate) it is for the EXECUTIVE to deal with in its contract of employment with the individual police officers ...”.

The main point here, is that this dictum is a clear refutation of some misconceived notion that the executive ( headed of course by the President ) has no function whatsoever in relation to police officers because of article 226 (1). That is an utter fallacy. And as I see it, the minister of State’s letter to the PSC was in substance and intent a NOTICE of the exercise by the President of his residual function/power to effect an appointment freeze.

Broad policy directives of a nondiscriminatory nature and as the PUBLIC INTEREST requires is the privilege of any government of the day. The Service Commissions were never intended to operate in isolation or immunization from such public interest incidents; but rather within these parameters. A freeze on ALL appointment (en bloc) is in no way discriminatory, and is not directed to any particular individual officer; and accordingly, it cannot rationally be argued that any such omnibus freeze negates the whole beneficial constitutional purpose of the autonomous PSC: to insulate individual officers from political influences (for better, or worst). Nor, in the circumstances can there be (by any critic) any condescension to particulars of any Kind to show how the alleged unconstitutionality has happened. Was President Granger tending to, or purporting to direct or instruct the PSC as to which individual officer should, or should not be appointed? Plainly NOT.

Sixth, the local analogous case of Teemal V. Guysuco in which the Guyana court of Appeal rejected an argument that the employer (Guysuco) could unilaterally vary its contract of employment with its workers by imposing a government “wage freeze” directive, is no authority for arguing that President Granger has no authority to effect an appointment freeze. That case was decided on private law of contract principles. In this matter we are in the sphere of constitutional law (ie public law contract).

No police officer has any constitutional/statutory vested right to be appointed; and besides by the constitution itself the President in the exercise of his (executive) functions, in this type of matter, acts in accordance with “his own deliberate judgment” (article 111(1)), as to what is best in and for the overriding public interests, including but not limited to, the overarching public interest matter of the safety and security of the Head of State (a matter of which there is no greater national security concern and significance). And, national security is no function of the PSC. It is exclusively a function of the Executive.

**BE GRATEFUL AND THANK THE PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT YOU ALONG THE WAY**

# Trump's Charlottesville defense omits two key words

By: Brad Lendon

US President Donald Trump tried to rewrite history Tuesday, defending his comments over the clashes in Charlottesville while leaving out the very words that ignited anger in the first place.

Speaking in front of thousands of supporters in Phoenix, Arizona, Trump pulled out copies of three of his own speeches and rehashed what he'd said about white supremacists gathering around a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in the Virginia university town on Aug 13.

One person was killed and 19 were hurt in Charlottesville when a speeding car slammed into a throng of counter-protesters to a "Unite the Right" rally. More than a dozen other injuries were reported in the violence surrounding the rally.

After the Charlottesville violence, Trump said this:

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides."

Tuesday night in Phoenix, Trump quoted himself this way:

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence. That's me speaking on Saturday."

It was the last part of the quote that "many sides" were responsible for the Charlottesville violence, which drew bipartisan rebukes for Trump equating neo-Nazis with those protesting against them.

It was also the part that Trump tried to airbrush from history in his speech Tuesday. "I hit 'em with neo-Nazi, I hit 'em with everything. KKK? We have KKK. I got 'em all," Trump said Tuesday night.

Then, he lambasted the "weak, weak people" allowing Confederate statues to be removed around the country accusing them of trying to take away "our culture" and "our history," Trump said.

Dismissing critics who said Trump is exacerbating a racial and culture divide in America, Trump claimed his movement is "based on love."

Once again, the President blamed the American media for "fomenting divisions" in the country.

Claiming the media was also trying to take away "our history and our heritage", Trump lambasted them as being "for the most part really, really dishonest people"

"They're bad people and I really think they don't like our country."

Political commentators immediately ripped into Trump.

James Clapper, former director of National Intelligence, questioned Trump's fitness for office, saying the 77-minute speech was "downright scary and disturbing."

Clapper, in an interview with CNN's Don Lemon, denounced Trump's "behavior and divisiveness and complete intellectual, moral and ethical void."

Lemon himself said Trump "came out on stage and lied directly to the American people."

"He certainly opened up the race wound from Charlottesville," Lemon continued.

"His speech was without thought," Lemon said. "It was

without reason, it was devoid of facts, it was devoid of wisdom, ... there was no sanity there."

In the streets outside the Phoenix Convention Center, violence erupted with officers using tear gas to manage thousands of Trump protesters.

"People in the crowd began fighting and throwing rocks and bottles at police," Sgt. Jonathan Howard, of the Phoenix Police Department, said in a statement to CNN. "They also dispersed some gas in the area. Police have responded with pepper balls and oc (pepper) spray in an attempt to disperse the crowd and stop the assaults."

Three people were arrested over the protests, police said.

Before the speech, anti-Trump demonstrators yelled chants including "Shame" and "No Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA."

"Trump saying people on both sides are to blame was the last straw," Eva Spivey, 25, of Avondale, Arizona, told CNN. "Racism is a one-sided thing."

Anna Ruiz, a teacher in the Phoenix Union High School District, said she marched for her undocumented students who were "too afraid."

"It makes me sad to have to be out here," Ruiz, tearing up, told CNN. "Everybody who lives in this country has rights."

## GPL plans to normalize electricity

Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) intends to address the issue of constant power outages by re-connecting a generation engine that was down for some time.

This was the assurance given by Public Relations Officer, Shevion Sears, during a recent press conference.

According to Sears, the DP3 number two engine at the Kingston Power Station should be back online soon. She said that the engine was unavailable for some time due to a damaged alternator. This indeed was the case, as during a site visit to the Kingston plant, technicians were seen working on the engine.

Sears told the media that currently, GPL has a generation shortfall due to the DP3 engine being unavailable along with two other engines. She said that the normal generation capacity in the Demerara-Berbice interconnected system, inclusive of the Skeldon-Wärtsilä plant and the Co-generation plant is approximately 137 megawatts.

The PRO added that the total available generation capacity in the Demerara-Berbice Interconnected system is currently 106 megawatts. She said the day peak is approximately 109 megawatts while the night peak is about 110 to 112 megawatts.

Sears stated this translates to a generation shortfall of approximately 3 megawatts during the day and 6 megawatts during the night peak periods. She indicated that there are two major reasons for power outages, either planned or unplanned.

"For the unplanned outages we have the DP1 number one at Garden of Eden which constitutes 5.5 megawatts, it is unavailable for approximately six weeks for major overhaul. This machine should return to service very soon.

DP3 number two which is 6.6 megawatt remained unavailable due to a damaged alternator and DP3 number three a 6.6 megawatts engine is unavailable due to major overhaul."

As it relates to unplanned outages, Sears said that the number one engine at the Skeldon Energy Incorporated (SEI) power plant, which is a 5 megawatt engine, is unavailable.



James Clapper

**CSJAD CONDEMNS THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO INSULT PEOPLE**

# How and why slavery first came to colonial Virginia

*By: Vanessa Williamson*

The racist violence in Charlottesville is an appalling chapter in the very long history of white supremacy in America.

Watching marchers with torches and Confederate flags near the site of Thomas Jefferson's university, I was reminded of Edmund Morgan's classic history of the origins of black slavery in colonial Virginia.

Morgan demonstrates how the seeds of modern racism were planted in the American colonies; that history provides valuable lessons if we are to confront white supremacy as it exists today.

In the early 17th Century, would-be plantation owners in Virginia were facing a problem: to be profitable, tobacco farming required a lot of extremely unpleasant labor.

Clearly these tasks were not to be undertaken by the plantation owners themselves; that would really undermine the appeal of plantation ownership. But, unlike England, Virginia did not have a class of already-poor people desperate for any work that would provide subsistence.

So who would do the work?

At first, Virginia plantation owners filled their labor shortage by relying heavily on white indentured servants. Given the very high mortality rates in Virginia, purchasing indentured servants was more cost-effective, since slaves and servants often died within a few years of their arrival.

Thus it was only in the second half of the 1600s that, "as life expectancy rose, slaves became a better buy than the servants."

As a result, the working population in late-17th Century Virginia was quite diverse, including white indentured servants, black and Native American slaves, and free whites who had completed their term of service.

Outnumbered, plantation owners grew increasingly fearful of threats to their political control. In particular, there was the danger of a cooperative insurrection across racial lines.

The solution was to divide and conquer. Through new laws passed by the Virginia assembly, plantation owners consciously encouraged racial hatred between blacks and poor whites.

First, the distinction between freedom and enslavement was specified in explicitly racial, rather than religious, terms. The Virginia assembly established in 1667 that converting to Christianity did not change the condition of blacks and Native Americans in bondage. Previously, some black and native people who could prove that they had been baptized had successfully sued for freedom.

Second, the assembly created social distinctions between white servants and black slaves. In 1680, the Virginia assembly passed new legislation preventing "any negroe or other slave" from raising a hand to any white person, a measure that put servants on a par with their masters in their impunity for abuse of enslaved people, and stripped enslaved people of any right of self-defense. In 1691, laws punishing intermarriage between whites and blacks were put in place. Finally, in 1705, the assembly decided that, while white servants could own property, all property owned by slaves was to be seized and sold, with profits "applied to the use of the [white] poor." Thus the white poor materially benefited from additional oppressions put upon black slaves.

In this way, the legal construction of racism helped diffuse the threat of insurrection. Poor white people would now see themselves as allied with those far wealthier than themselves, and would define themselves by race rather than by class.

The paradoxical result, Morgan argues, is that republican ideas—the kind that would be so beautifully espoused by Thomas Jefferson—found fertile soil in Virginia, not in spite of sla-

very, but in part because of it.

"Aristocrats could more safely preach equality in a slave society than in a free one," Morgan concludes. "[B]ecause Virginia's labor force was composed mainly of slaves, who had been isolated by race and removed from the political equation, the remaining free laborers and tenant farmers were too few in number to constitute a serious threat" to the political elite.

Thus the origins of white supremacy in Virginia reveal just how much the events in Charlottesville were a home-grown phenomenon. But how racism came to be codified in the United States is a history worthy of close examination, because it is a history that tells us something important about the contemporary moment of racial reaction.

Racism is not just a psychological proclivity, but a tool of the elite, a deliberate system of legal, political and economic control. As intimidating as this truth is, it is also, in some sense, empowering. Because our history makes clear that systemic racism as it developed in the United States was not an inevitability, it was a series of intentional choices.

If the framework for white supremacy was deliberately built in this country, it can also be deliberately dismantled.

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## Trump is a threat to the world

*By: Jon Sharman*

A group of psychiatrists has written to Congress to warn that Donald Trump poses a "clear and present danger" to the world.

Among them is Dr Bandy Lee, of Yale University, who is also reportedly consulting with Democratic members of Congress on setting up an expert panel to give advice on the President's mental health.

She is concerned by Mr. Trump's "dangerousness", Dr Lee told the media.

The group's letter, sent to members of both parties, said: "It no longer takes a psychiatrist to recognise the alarming patterns of impulsive, reckless, and narcissistic behaviour — regardless of diagnosis — that, in the person of President Trump, put the world at risk.

"We now find ourselves in a clear and present danger, especially concerning North Korea and the President's command of the US nuclear arsenal."

It comes after Democrats proposed creating an 11-member, cross-party Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity which would be responsible for examining the US president's mental and physical health.

First tabled by Maryland congressman Jamie Raskin, and now backed by more than two dozen members of the House, the bill would see Mr. Trump or any other US president forced from the Oval Office if he or she is deemed to be mentally or physically unfit for the role.

Discussion of Mr. Trump's fitness to lead has intensified in the days since his extraordinary address to supporters in Phoenix, Arizona.

The President blasted "damned dishonest" journalists and took aim at both the state's Republican senators in a rambling speech, having abandoned his teleprompters.

He also revisited his various statements in the wake of far-right violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, reading portions to prove he had condemned white supremacists and had been misrepresented by the media.

# The politics of oil is dirty

*By: Peeping Tom*

Oil has made many nations rich. But before those nations became rich, the multinationals engaged in the production of oil became far richer.

Oil wealth is not free. It comes at a terrible price. In many instances, it came at the price of the loss of freedom and the slaughter of the innocent.

In 1995, the world awoke to the dirty politics of oil when environmentalist and writer Ken Saro-Wiwa of the Ogini tribe of Southern Nigeria, and eight others were executed by the Nigerian military because of their opposition to the environmental damage which the operations of Shell, an oil multinational was causing in the delta. Shell was accused of conspiring with the Nigerian military in the executions.

Fourteen years later, and after sustained international condemnation and local opposition, Shell made a large settlement of US\$15.5 M, a pittance for the oil giant, but symbolically a massive victory for those who wished to call attention to the dirty alliances and methods which multinationals employed in their greed to get their hands on the oil of other countries.

It took the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa to open the eyes of the world to the environmental destruction which oil companies were causing in other countries. This led to greater vigilance by environmental activists over oil operations. The death of the Ogini activist also showed the dirty politics which can result between oil companies and little dictators. Ken Saro-Wiwa exposed that dirty politics.

The Kaieteur News is now reminding Guyanese that they must be vigilant against possible corruption involving oil companies. The newspaper has been highlighting some of the controversies in which Exxon Mobil has found itself implicated, including in Equatorial Guinea whose people thought that oil would bring them riches, only to find that it came with many problems.

Guyana must be careful. The government should consider a confidential briefing, similar to what the Ramotar administration has with APNU, in relation to the Amaila Falls Hydroelectric Project. The Ramotar administration was unwilling to make public certain facts because it was still in negotiations with a major America company which would have been responsible for the deal. The opposition had concerns. They needed answers. In the interest of balancing confidentiality and the release of information to satisfy major stakeholders that Guyana was not being shafted, a confidential briefing was held.

The government of Guyana, for some unexplained reason, is not prepared to make public the revised contract it has signed with Exxon Mobil. It however has said that it has doubled the royalty from 1% to 2%. The world average is around 8% so there is some need for the government to justify this low rate of royalty. This can be done in a confidential briefing.

The fallout from the problems in the oil industry has been a deliberate attempt in the developed world to ensure that oil companies and the governments with which they did business operate in a more transparent manner. It does seem however that the Guyana government is moving in the opposite direction. For some undisclosed reason it is not prepared to disclose the terms of the contract it has signed with Exxon Mobil. It must state why.

The public does not seem to be worried. Like the people of Equatorial Guinea, they must feel that oil is going to make all Guyanese rich so why bother to question the terms of the contract. They should learn from what has happened in that country. They should learn about the channels through which oil payments were made. They should understand the risks involved, one of which is Guyanese can end up being empty-handed by the time the oil runs out.

Guyanese had better wake up and demand that the Granger administration level with them on the contract. The oil belongs to the people. It does not belong to the Cabinet. The people should have information that would convince them that nothing crooked is afoot.

## Desilting city canals must be a comprehensive project

*By: Hafiz Rahman*

It looks like your effort to publish letters on the drainage situation in the City is bearing fruit. As I write this, work began two weeks ago on the Cummings Canal. The blockage at the eastern end of the koker is cleared, and the excavator is working way beyond Albert Street to the east. I am willing to bet that the removal of mud from the Church Street canal is not completed. One can observe mud along the length of the High St canal from Croal Street up to Church Street. .

I visited the Young Street Canal, the one that has been causing Kingston property owners heightened anxiety, due to the ever present high level of water in the drains, especially in the alley-ways. Recall that a deceased engineer attached to the Works Ministry, advised the Minister of Infrastructure that clearing the internal drains of Kingston “would flush” Young Street canal of the accumulated 25 plus 23 years silt that has become solid mud.

The excavation works on Young Street canal is now being carried out by a third contractor. The first contractor operated in 2014; he did not complete the work, but was paid in full. The second contractor worked just as the Coalition came to office, not much was accomplished by him. That a third contractor is engaged to clear Young St. canal indicates how out of touch the City Council and by extension the Ministry of Infrastructure have become through their inaction. Now it seems from the way the work is being done that this third contractor would accomplish the removal of mud from Young St. canal admirably. We cannot be three times unlucky.

We would be blessed should those who have power over our City’s drainage system, that they get all the canals cleared of accumulated mud before the yearend rains come. On the matter of the canals south of Sussex Street canal, with the over grown antelope grass thereby blocking drainage, would the City Council be interested in leasing these canals to me. I would harvest the grass to feed a herd of milk cows, providing milk for citizens of the City, and perhaps the milk plant the Minister of Agriculture wishes to buy will now be supplied with vast volume of milk. I can get good fodder grass in the Norton Street, and other Lodge areas.

As for those citizens of Georgetown who live alongside the canals south of Sussex Street, I will settle them as farmers on about two to five acres of land each immediately south of South Ruimveldt, just across the trench. They would be living in the environs of Georgetown, they would really enjoy the good life, we all have been promised, and the green environment would be assured. Of course the National Farmers Organization will be willing to guide and mentor them into becoming full time farmers.

*"Emancipate yourself from mental slavery,"  
because "None but ourselves can free our minds"*

**'Will-power is the key to success.  
Successful people strive no matter what  
they feel by applying their will to  
overcome apathy, doubt or fear'**

# The Whole Point of Confederate Monuments is to Celebrate White Supremacy

By: Karen L. Cox (*The Washington Post*)

The rally by white nationalists to defend the Robert E. Lee monument in Charlottesville last weekend, and the destruction of a monument to Confederate soldiers in Durham, N.C., two days later, have stoked the ongoing debate over these statues.

President Trump suggested Tuesday that the torchlight rally by neo-Nazis and other white supremacists was merely a defense of the past: “So this week it’s Robert E. Lee. I noticed that Stonewall Jackson is coming down. I wonder, is it George Washington next week? And Thomas Jefferson the week after? You really do have to ask yourself, where does it stop?”

On Thursday, he picked the argument back up on Twitter: “Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments. You can’t change history, but you can learn from it. Robert E Lee, Stonewall Jackson — who’s next, Washington, Jefferson? So foolish! Also, the beauty that is being taken out of our cities, towns and parks will be greatly missed and never able to be comparably replaced!”

But what do we learn from the history of these monuments? Are they truly innocuous symbols of Confederate heritage, as their defenders argue? The facts tell us otherwise.

Almost none of the monuments were put up right after the Civil War. Some were erected during the civil rights era of the early 1960s, which coincided with the war’s centennial, but the vast majority of monuments date to between 1895 and World War I. They were part of a campaign to paint the Southern cause in the Civil War as just and slavery as a benevolent institution, and their installation came against a backdrop of Jim Crow violence and oppression of African Americans.

The group responsible for the majority of these memorials was the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), among the most influential white women’s organizations in the South in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Honoring Confederate heroes, generals and soldiers was one of its primary objectives, and hundreds of monuments throughout the South — and beyond — serve as testimony to the Daughters’ aggressive agenda to vindicate the Confederacy.

The lasting power of the mythology they created is evident today in the raging battles over the fate of the memorials: While Baltimore officials acted quickly to take down four Confederate monuments in that city Tuesday night, laws prevent the removal of such memorials in some of the states that seceded from the Union during the Civil War. Most of those laws were passed only recently, in reaction to calls to remove the monuments or change street names honoring Confederate generals.

The 1890s, when the UDC was founded and monument building began in earnest, was a decade of virulent racism across the South. Not content to disenfranchise black men, Southern whites went on a lynching spree. Ida B. Wells, the African American journalist and anti-lynching crusader, documented 186 lynchings of black people in 1893 alone — mostly men, but women and children, too. As she wrote in her account “The Red Record,” these “scenes of unusual brutality failed to have any visible effect upon the humane sentiments of the people of our land.”

Violence against blacks only increased in the early decades of the 20th century. In addition to continued lynching across the South, the Atlanta race riot of 1906 demonstrated how seriously white men took their supremacy over African Americans: An estimated 10,000 white men and boys in the city went after black men, beating dozens to death and injuring hundreds more.

Amid that brutality, the pace of Confederate monument construction quickened. The UDC and other like-minded heritage

organizations were intent on honoring the Confederate generation and establishing a revisionist history of what they called the War Between the States. According to this Lost Cause mythology, the South went to war to defend states’ rights, slavery was essentially a benevolent institution that imparted Christianity to African “savages,” and, while the Confederates were defeated, theirs was a just cause and those who fought were heroes.

The Daughters regarded the Ku Klux Klan, which had been founded to resist Reconstruction, as a heroic organization, necessary to return order to the South. Order, of course, meant the use of violence to subdue newly freed blacks.

During the era of Jim Crow, Confederate monuments could be placed most anywhere. Some were in cemeteries or parks, but far more were erected on the grounds of local and state courthouses. These monuments, then, not only represented reverence for soldiers who fought in a war to defend slavery. They also made a very pointed statement about the rule of white

supremacy: All who enter the courthouse are subject to the laws of white men.

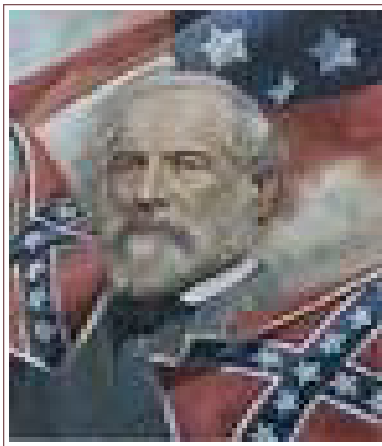
Monument building, and the suppression of African Americans, did not occur in a Southern Jim Crow vacuum. White Northerners were complicit, either through their silence or via the process of sectional reconciliation. Many shared white Southerners’ beliefs about what was then called “Anglo Saxon” supremacy. Northerners likened immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe to the South’s “Negro problem” and essentially turned a blind eye to the violence used to subdue African Americans.

That reconciliation took many forms during the era of Jim Crow. For instance, white audiences across the nation showed their appreciation for the South in popular culture. During the early decades of the 20th century, they bought the sheet music of “Dixie songs,” whose words glorified the Old South, by the millions. The most successful film of the silent era, “The Birth of a Nation” (1915), and the bestselling book of 1936 and 1937, “Gone With the Wind,” which also became an international film sensation, were essentially popular celebrations of white supremacy and Southern civilization.

Monuments, though, were much more tangible signs of reconciliation. The ultimate such symbol was the Confederate memorial unveiled in Arlington National Cemetery in the summer of 1914. On June 3, Jefferson Davis’s birthday, Union veterans joined Confederate veterans, and members of the Daughters of the American Revolution joined members of the UDC, for the dedication of what was billed as a “peace monument.” The “peace” may have been about ending hostility between the regions, but the monument itself honors a Lost Cause narrative that met the white South’s litmus test, as it contains images of heroic Confederate soldiers, faithful slaves and wording that vindicates their cause.

While Confederate monuments honor their white heroes, they do not always rely on the true history of what took place between 1861 and 1865. Nor was that their intent. Rather, they served to rehabilitate white men — not as the losers of a war but, as a monument in Charlotte states, preservers of “the Anglo-Saxon civilization of the South.”

Today’s defenders of Confederate monuments are either unaware of the historical context or do not care. Like generations of whites before them, they are more invested in the mythology that has attached itself to these sentinels of white supremacy, because it serves their cause.



General Robert E. Lee

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# A new era for broadcasting

(Continued from page.....8) it is important for Parliament not be the political theatre for warriors only, but also for builders, in order to help construct a strong and prosperous society and thus improve the well-being of the masses. Although the Bill is not perfect, it will curb the excesses outlined in the previous Bill. It will create a level playing field and put an end to the discrimination in the sector.

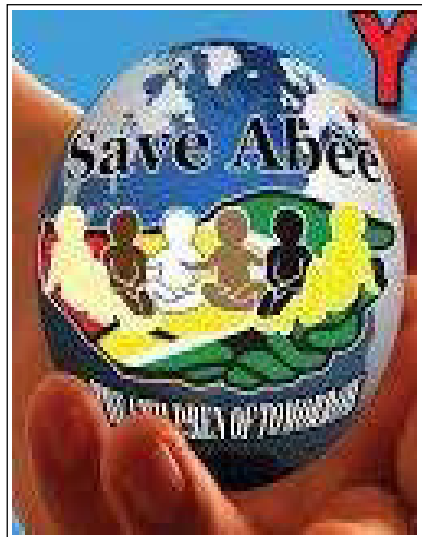
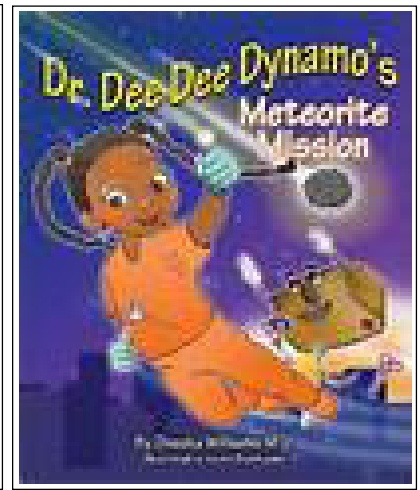
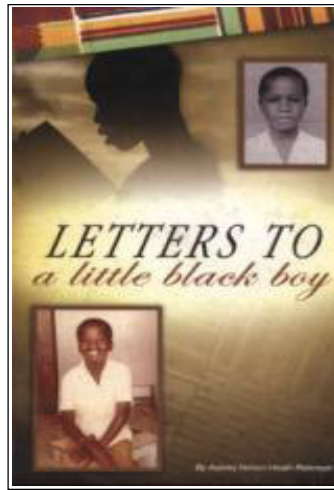
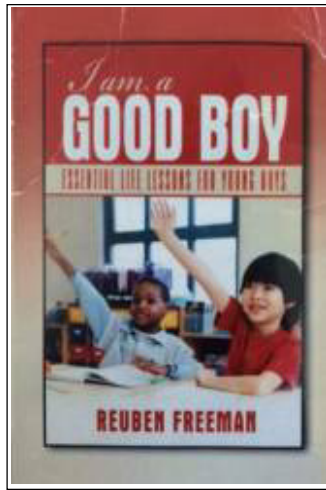
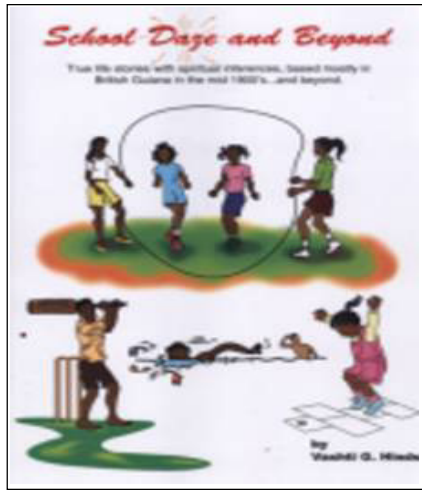
The passage of the Bill ushered in an era of fairness; it corrected the wrongs which were normal under the last government. It should be supported by all.

**Voices Against Violence  
Candlelight Vigil  
Sunday, September 10th**

**Remember LFS Burnham,  
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*“Everyone has the right to a standard of living- adequate for the health of himself and of his family....”*

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### THE ABSENCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MAKES CLAIMS OF DEMOCRACY IN GUYANA A BIG GIMMICK



It is important to emphasize that *Suicide* cannot be considered in isolation. Instead, the solution requires a collaborative and broader approach...

**A Crisis of  
Child Abuse in  
Guyana**

**NOTHING LESS WILL SUFFICE UNTIL THERE IS A REVOLUTION OF VALUES AND A MORE RADICAL RELOCATING OF POWER TO THE DISPOSSESSED**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31st

Guyana Cultural Association of NY, Inc.: Inaugural presentation of Dr. Desrey Caesar-Fox Memorial Lecture. Venue: 2806 Newkirk Ave., Bklyn, NY. From 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker Walter Edwards, Ph.D. Donation: \$20. Call: 718-

**St. Rose's Alumni Association USA Inc.** Anniversary Gala. Place: Russo's on the Bay. 162-45 Cross Bay, Blvd., Howard Beach, NY. Cocktails: 7:30 pm. Dinner: 8:30 pm. Dress: Formal. Donation: \$125 (all incl.). Call: 917-553-4134 or 718-342-7046.

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

Voices Against Violence: National Anti- Violence Candlelight Vigil- (World Suicide Prevention Day). For info. Call: 718-542-4454.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

Guyana Cultural Association of Montreal Inc. (GCAM): Golden Jubilee with a Gala & Dance (1967-2017) under the auspices of Dr. George Norton- Guyana's Minister of Social Cohesion. Place: Eveagreen Banquet Hall- 5011 Buchan, Mtl., Que. Gala: \$80. Dance: \$45. Music: Dj Rockwell & Hilton "Bamboo Fire" Hemmerding. Call: Yvonne 514-365-1198, Leebert: 450-445-0747.

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd

Guyana Christian Charities Inc: Fall Dance. At: Pickering Recreation Complex- 1867 Valley Farm Road. Music: Fuh Fun Band and Dj Dynamic Sounds. Adm \$25. Call: Joe 416-286-1956.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th - SUNDAY 9th

Cricket Council USA: T20 Tournament. At: 3700 N.W. 11th Place, Lauderhill, Florida. For info. Call: 561-392-4800.