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GIHR Online News March 2020



L-R: Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley; President of Guyana, David Granger and Chairperson of the Advisory Council of the Orders of Guyana, Justice Yonette Cummings- Edwards [DPI photo]

Bajan PM gets Guyana's second highest national award

President David Granger on Monday conferred Guyana's second-highest national award to Mia Mottley, the Prime Minister of Barbados.

Mottley was awarded in recognition of her contribution to strengthening the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and representing the economic interests of Caribbean people.

The ceremony was held at the Ministry of the Presidency in Georgetown. **[continued on page 4]**

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The Guyana Institute of Historical Research is a partner of the Guyana Cultural Association of New York. Dr. Aubrey Thompson, of Morgan State University is the GIHR representative.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Please publish the following:

GUYANA ELECTIONS UPDATED COMMENTARY (March 15, 2020)

Following the walk-out by all the international observers from a reportedly rigged vote-counting process in Guyana, incumbent President David Granger was making plans to swear himself in as an illegal President.

Then boom! The Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) appeared at the eleventh hour to save Granger from his own destruction as well as to sanitize him in the eyes of the rest of the world.

There will now be a recount of the ballots in the controversial Region 4 instead of the compulsory continuation of the validation process based on the Statements of Poll (SOPs). CARICOM has appointed itself to supervise this new deal.

There is a conspiracy afoot here which the Opposition PPP/C leader Bharrat Jagdeo could not see and fell blindly for it. Does this new agreement mean that the results of the SOPs would be discarded? There is now a greater risk that the ballot boxes would be tampered after two weeks of being in possession of the Granger-supportive Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM). Has Jagdeo been hoodwinked?

The integrity of GECOM and CARICOM have already been tainted. The ballots in the boxes will be stacked against Jagdeo, Presidential Candidate Irfaan Ali and the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C).

I do not think that the results of a recount of Region 4 would be any different from that which has been declared by GECOM.

For more than a year, CARICOM stood by silently at Granger's A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) ruling party's insistence that 33 is not greater than 32 Parliamentary votes. That mathematical controversy went to the High Court, the Court of Appeal and The Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) which APNU lost.

Taxpayers in Guyana were made to pay for APNU's court claims and defences. The PPP had to fund its own legal costs.

Granger is already being repackaged to appear as a fair, honest and decent leader. The CARICOM head has emphasized that it is Granger - not Jagdeo - who has asked for a recount. Do you believe that? After Granger refused to step down when he lost the no-confidence motion in Parliament in December 2018? Very, very strange and suspicious that Granger would request a recount of the votes.

If this is true, Granger has a sinister plan up his sleeve. If the recount is not predicated on the SOPs - which would facilitate verification - then this new process of recounting will be flawed and a farce. It must be remembered that foreign observers left because GECOM did not want to continue the verification of the SOPs.

Let's hope that my predictions are wrong that Granger will be installed as the President, aided by the conspiracy of GECOM and CARICOM.

Let's pray that Guyana would not return to the dark days of the tyranny of Presidents Forbes Burnham and Desmond Hoyte, predecessors of the same party that Granger leads.

Sincerely,

Dr Kumar Mahabir,

Trinidad and Tobago.

The Editor,

Controversial CARICOM member supervising Guyana election results

A Caribbean Community (CARICOM) High Level Team is now in Guyana supervising the recounting of ballots from the March 2, 2020 elections.

One of the 5-member team is Chief Elections Officer (CEO) of the Election and Boundaries Commission (EBC) of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms Fern Narcis-Scope.

Mrs. Narcis-Scope is a controversial figure like Guyana's Keith Lowenfield. They both hold the same position in their respective elections supervisory administrations.

Narcis joined the EBC in 2010. As a contract legal officer, her promotion to the CEO on September 17, 2017 was marred in controversy. It was challenged by attorneys Kent Samlal and Abdel Mohammed acting on behalf of Lena Sahadeo, the Deputy CEO.

Having 24 years' experience, Sahadeo believed that she was more qualified and experienced for the position, and that Narcis was her junior. It was believed that Narcis had links with the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), but this was denied by the EBC.

When it lost the elections in 2015, the Opposition UNC, led by Kamla Persad-Bissessar, challenged and the EBC in court. Narcis was the EBC's senior legal adviser.

The challenge was based on the sudden decision of the EBC to extend the time for voting from 6 pm to 7 pm throughout the country without any official notification to the UNC and its constituent parties.

The UNC lost its case but the Court ruled that the EBC's decision to extend the polls by one hour was wrong. Chief Justice Ivor Archie said that while the EBC did exceed its power by extending the voting time, it was not so outrageous a breach to declare the election result null and void.

As the EBC's then-senior legal adviser, Narcis's judgement and integrity are questionable. She is now further compromised by being an arbitrator in GECOM that is ignoring a court injunction that credible election results must be based on the verification of the Statements of Poll (SOPs), and not on the recount of the ballots.

I call on CARICOM to revoke the appointment of this controversial figure from its supervisory team NOW.

Sincerely,

Samaroo Siewah

Trinidad and Tobago

[Continued from page 1]

The Order of Roraima was established in 1976 to award outstanding service to the nation. Citizens of foreign nations who are deemed eligible may be appointed as honorary members of the order.

President David Granger, in brief remarks, said to commemorate Guyana's 50th Anniversary of becoming a Republic, the country pays special honour to Prime Minister Mottley.



President David Granger [DPI photo] "Prime Minister Mottley, you have distinguished yourself as an ardent advocate for the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), you have combined your almost 30 years of political activism with your personal enthusiasm and your countries legendary leadership in regional integration.

"We applaud your leadership, we applaud your stewardship, we applaud

your willingness to partner with Caribbean states,” President Granger said.

Mottley became the youngest ever Queen’s Counsel of Barbados. She is an Attorney-at-Law by profession and served as Attorney General and Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and is now the Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).



Mia Mottley, the Prime Minister of Barbados [DPI photo] Among her long list of notable achievements, she is also the first female to hold the position of Prime Minister in Barbados and was also the first female Opposition Leader.

She also served as Minister of Barbados for the portfolios of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment, National Security and the Civil Service in her 30-year political career.

In response to receiving the award, Mottley said she looks forward to building on the relationship between the two countries to make the region more secure.

“We are also conscious that we face a number of existential threats most critical of which is the climate crisis and our chronic non-communicable diseases.”

“We do not have the population basis alone, we do not have the expertise or capital alone and we look forward, therefore, working with the people of Guyana to making sure we can make this region more secure in providing a prosperous and stable future for our people,” Mottley said.



Officials at the ceremony [DPI photo] Barbados and Guyana were among the CARICOM countries to pioneer the founding of the Caribbean free trade market (CARIFTA), both countries gained their independence from Great Britain and are also founding members of CARICOM.

Guyana and Barbados are also the only two CARICOM countries to establish monuments in honour of the victims of Cubana de Aviación terrorist attack off the coast of Barbados in 1976.

All 73 people on board the aircraft were killed including 11 Guyanese died.

The ceremony was attended by a delegation from Barbados along with Secretary-General of CARICOM, Ambassador Orwin LaRocque, Minister of State Dawn Hastings Williams, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Karen Cummings, Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo and Chairperson of the Advisory Council of the Orders of Guyana, Justice Yonette Cummings- Edwards.

GIHR 2020 Conference

Theme: Decolonization: Fully Independent.

Date: 25-27 June 2020

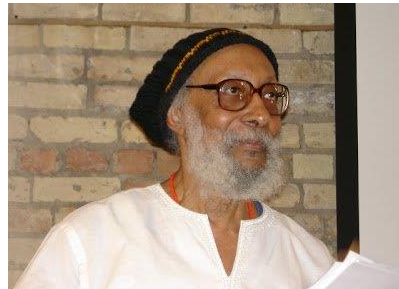
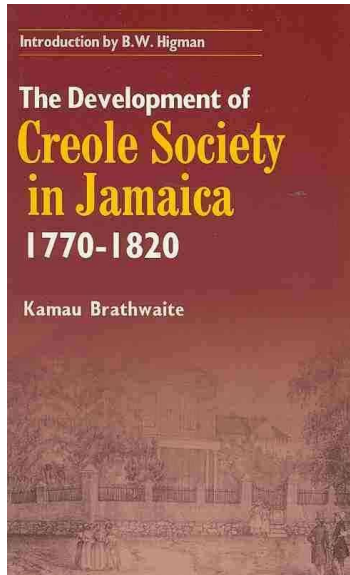
Fee: USD\$25.00/GYD\$6,000.00

Venues: National Cultural Center

Walter Rodney Archives.

Historian Kamau Brathwaite dies at 89

[SHERRYLYN TOPPIN, sherrylynclarke@nationnews.com]



Edward Kamau Brathwaite

Richard Drayton

Kamau Brathwaite (1930-2020) has gone to join the ancestors in his 90th year of life. His **Development of Creole Society in Jamaica** remains a landmark of Caribbean history writing, but it was as a poet/shaman that his name will be forever resonant whenever Caribbean try to make sense of themselves.

The poem "Negus" ends, and you must listen to the nyahbinghi drums unfurling the lines:

it

It

it

it is not

it is not

It is not

It is not enough

to be pause

to be hole

to be void

to be silent

To be semicolon

To be semicolony

Fling me the stone which will confound the void

Find me the rage and I will raze the colony

Fill me with words

And I will blind your god

At .. At.. At.. Attibon

Attibon

Attibon Legba

Ouvri bayi pou moi”

Legba, open the threshold to the gods.

MORE ARTICLES



Barbadian Edward Kamau Brathwaite, the noted poet and historian has passed. He was 89 years old.

Kamau, as he was familiarly known, was educated at Harrison College, the University of Cambridge Pembroke College and the University of Sussex.

He was an education officer in Ghana from 1955 to 1962 before he returned to the Caribbean to teach in St Lucia and later at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica. He also lectured at New York University.

Some of his works include Rights of Passage (1967), Masks (1968), Islands (1969) and Barabajan Poems in 1994.

Among his honours include an honorary doctorate from the University of Sussex, the Casa de las Americas Prize for Literary Criticism, the WEB Du Bois Award in 2010 and the Bussa Award. **(SAT)**



1. Cleaning.

2. Employment

3. Event planning

Like and share Yahweh services Guyana on face book

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference 2020: ‘The Literature of Trinidad and Tobago 1980-2020’

University of the West Indies: St Augustine Campus, Trinidad 23rd – 26th September 2020

This Conference is the first of what is expected to be a series of collaborations aimed at surveying late twentieth century and early twenty-first century developments in the oral and written literature of all the islands of the English-speaking Caribbean including Guyana and Belize.

The first component is the production of an annotated Bibliography of works led by the Library of the University of the West Indies, NALIS and the National Archives.

the second component is analysis and interpretation of the form and content of an exciting and so far uncharted body of work whose continuity with what has gone before and whose “newness” have not been examined.

You are invited to submit abstracts for panel proposals, individual papers, posters, or blogs / vlogs in any genre or combination of genres

Poetry

Prose fiction

Creative non-fiction

Drama

Film

Proposals may address themes and concerns relating to the particular context of Trinidad and Tobago, to the Caribbean region as a whole or the globe. Formal and aesthetic issues relating to language, performance, literary techniques, the permeability of formal boundaries etc are expected to figure largely in the Conference

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words between February 12th and March 31st 2020. You will be informed of acceptance by April 30th 2020. Full papers are due by July 31st 2020. The final paper should be no less than 20 but no more than 30 pages including footnotes and bibliography. Please note: footnotes rather than endnotes. Send all submissions to trinidadliterature2020@gmail.com



Former educator celebrates 100th birth anniversary



Minister of Education Dr Nicolette Henry pays Mrs Pearl Gravesande a courtesy visit on her birthday (Photo by The Ministry of Education)

SURROUNDED by family, friends and well-wishers, Mrs Pearl Gravesande celebrated her 100th birth anniversary on Monday at the Archer's Home.

Minister of Education Dr. Nicolette Henry was present to share the joyous occasion with the centenarian and her loved ones.

Mrs Gravesande is a retired head teacher and dedicated 56 years of service to the education sector. According to Minister Henry, it is not every day that we celebrate a centenarian and more excitingly, one who was an educator.

Minister Henry added that she was honoured to be in Mrs Gravesande's presence to express her gratitude on behalf of herself, the Ministry of Education and the Government of Guyana for the contributions and sacrifices the former educator had made during her time of service to the sector and by extension, the nation.

Minister Henry noted that, the education system today continues to benefit from such longstanding service, which has contributed to the moulding of those she taught.

Mrs Gravesande taught at the Unity/Lancaster Government School, Plaisance Government School and the St Paul's Primary School in Plaisance, where she impacted the lives of generations of Guyanese.

Politics and the Amerindians of Guyana (Part 1 of 3)

By Dr Kumar Mahabir and Jai Sears



Kumar Mahabir (left), Amerindian Official Gertrude Henrico and Jai Sears at Nappi Settlement in the Rupununi Savannah

The Rupununi Savannah in Guyana is 5,000 square miles of immense rolling plains interspersed with vast wetlands and dense forests. Trinidad and Tobago, at just 1,900 square miles, can fit into the Savannah more than two times. With its numerous ranches and horses, the Savannah is the perfect setting to shoot a Western cowboy movie.

The Rupununi is just one example of how Guyana has been blessed with expansive lands and other rich, natural resources. It is located in the south-western part of Guyana, bordering the Brazilian Amazon, and is the home of the Makushi, Wai-Wai and Wapishana Amerindian tribes who have inhabited the region for thousands of years. These native peoples legitimately believe that all the lands in the Rupununi should be returned to them, who in turn, would redistribute some to the State and others.

My friend, Jai Sears, and I took the one-hour flight from Ogle airport to Lethem (300 miles away) to spend a week for vacation and research last Christmas. Lethem is the largest town and main commercial centre in the Rupununi Savannah which has a population of about 3,000 persons. It is the capital of Region 9 and the hub linking many of the surrounding Amerindian villages. Lethem is also a raffish, hot, dusty border town that is the gateway to Brazil across the Takutu River to Bonfim and Boa Vista which we also visited.

Immigrant Chinese merchants

The sleepy Lethem town awakens once a year for the Rupununi Rodeo held on the Easter weekend. The competition among various ranches in the region attracts visitors from Guyana, Brazil, Venezuela and the rest of the world. It is one of the largest events in Guyana.

Lethem was once known as a place for the profitable business of milking poisonous venom from the deadly Bush Master and labaria/labarria snakes to make medicine. The Savannah was also once abundant with cultivated rice as well as cattle and fish. The few mountains, slopes and valleys were abundant with cassava, corn, bora [bodi], banana, watermelons, lettuce, ochro, coconut and boulanger [baigan/eggplant]. There is not much farming now.

Jai and I stayed at the 3-star Rupununi Eco Hotel in Lethem. The town should now be named Chinathem because Asian migrants have taken over almost all the commerce from the East Indians, building massive stores like warehouses in which they live downstairs at the back end. If the Chinese are to employ anyone at all as store clerks, it is young Amerindian girls who the chiefs believe are being exploited. Their main clients are neighbouring Brazilians who cross the nearby Takutu river-border who come to shop for the day, particularly on Saturdays.

Since the retail trade is not so profitable again, Chinese entrepreneurs are investing in the gold and lumber industries. They said that the former Bharrat Jagdeo-led People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) government was more responsive to new business ideas such as the introduction of casinos. The Chinese merchants said that since the Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) coalition government came to power, business has slowed down to a crawl. They are most likely to vote for the PPP/C party in the March 2nd 2020 general elections.

Most Amerindians are Catholics

From the hotel, we travelled every day by hired 4x4 vehicles to visit Amerindian tribes in Kumu, Nappi, Hiawa, Moco Moco and St. Ignatius Mission. We drove through meandering and undulating rough, red, laterite roads in the Savannahs, sometimes travelling about 80 miles to reach a village. We interviewed members of the Mukashi tribe who live in brick, wooden and galvanized- or thatched-covered houses. Every household has an outdoor latrine. Children were seen playing football and volleyball.

The aborigines have been converted to become Roman Catholics, Adventists and Evangelists but still maintain their native rituals and beliefs in syncretic and covert forms. The villagers are quiet and friendly, and there is no fear by strangers of robbery or violence.

We spoke to youths, women, councillors, officials, medicine men, ruler constables and toshaos [chiefs] about the condition of their lives, and for who and how they would vote in the March 2nd 2020 general elections. The aboriginal population of all of Guyana is estimated to be about 79,000 persons (10.5%) of the total population of 747,000, according to the 2012 census. Settlements such as Kumu has 400 inhabitants living in 64 households with residential clusters like Central 1, Central 2, Kuru Kuru, Palm Grove, Crapo Pond, Tiger Plate, Cuba, Berbice, Kamana and Caracas.

Politics and the Amerindians of Guyana (Part 2 of 3)

By Dr. Kumar Mahabir and Jai Sears

Traditionally, Amerindians in Guyana have voted for the Bharrat Jagdeo-led People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) party, now in Opposition. In Region 9 where they constitute the majority of the electorates, most Amerindians voted for the PPP/C instead of the now-governing Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) coalition party (5,794 vs 3,592) in the May 2015 general elections. In the UK Telegraph (Feb 9, 2020), journalist Mat Youkee wrote: "With the main parties equally matched, the votes of the country's Amerindian minority could be crucial for victory in the upcoming election."

This election is the most critical in Guyana's history as the country is preparing for unprecedented wealth with ExxonMobil's recent discovery of billions of barrels of oil offshore. The stakes are high.

Experts predict that this lone English-speaking country in South America is set to grow by 86 percent this year to become the fastest growing economy in the world.

Jai Sears and I visited St Ignatius Mission twice because it was close to our hotel. It is the largest of the Amerindian villages in the Rupununi Savannah. It has a Catholic nursery, primary and secondary school. Books and hot meals are given free to all children up to the primary level. The teachers are mainly Amerindians who stay in quarters built for them.

There is also a community centre (benab), a multi-purpose building, a village office, a presbytery training centre (run by Jesuit priests), a sport pavilion, and a Roman Catholic church and Presbytery residence (where priests live). St Ignatius Mission has a population of 1800 individuals living in about 450 households. Mainly women out-marry coast-landers.

Solar panels with free Wifi

Amerindians in St. Ignatius and elsewhere are out of work except for traditional jobs in agriculture, hunting and fishing. Under the David Granger APNU+AFC government, the budding cashew processing plant has ground to a virtual standstill. The villagers complained that there are few Government jobs for high school graduates in the village which result in many of them “doing mischief” in their abundant, idle time.

There are no land-line telephones in most aboriginal villages, but in Nappi and other settlements, Jagdeo had installed solar panels with free Wifi in the thatched-roofed community centres. This communication facility helped children tremendously with their homework and school projects. The solar panel, however, does not generate enough electricity to power a TV or refrigerator.

The hand-dug water wells are few and inadequate. During the election campaign in 2015, Granger had promised the villagers bigger panels. When he won, he removed the panels and replaced them with nothing, just as he had scrapped the student grants for Amerindian children. The villagers said the Granger APNU+AFC government has neither provided more water wells nor sustainable jobs for youths nor regular support for indigenous children to attend school.

Villagers said that the government looks only after the welfare of its own supporters unlike the former PPP/C government that served the entire Amerindian community. The Minister of Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs, Sydney Allicock, is reported to have neglected all other Amerindian communities except the district where he lives. Amerindians believe that a Government should serve all sections of a society equally.

Bumpy, destructive, red roads

The natives of Nappi of the Makushi and Wapishanas tribes said they feel neglected. Nappi has over 700 residents living in 120 households, excluding the neighbouring satellite villages of Parishara and Hiawa. It has a Catholic church and a Church of Christ. It also has a nursery school, a primary school, a hot meal kitchen, a teacher’s house, a health centre, a community centre (benab), a village office, a women’s activity centre, a sports complex and a village library. But none of these social and educational institutions are being served adequately by the present Government’s Presidential Grant. To the credit of Granger, his APNU+AFC government has recently made available pipe-borne water to the settlement, perhaps as a sweetener for the up-coming elections.

The Amerindians have claimed that the APNU+AFC Government contracts have been given mainly to party’s supporters and financiers as well as friends and family who were often unqualified and incompetent. The good asphalt roads, as well as the schools and health centres, were built by the PPP/C government led by Jagdeo. Some roads and buildings that were being rebuilt by Jagdeo have been left unfinished (“half-way”) when the Granger Government came to power in 2015.

The roads leading to the Amerindian villages are not paved with asphalt and are covered with brick-coloured laterite. It is bumpy and destructive to cars with red dust spreading all over, inside and out,

especially on the rims and tyres. Only 4x4 vehicles are recommended. Some commercial distribution trucks do not schedule this route and destination because of the bad condition of the roads.

Politics and the Amerindians of Guyana (Part 3 of 3)

By Dr. Kumar Mahabir and Jai Sears

When it rains, the laterite roads to the Amerindian settlements in the Rupununi Savannah in Guyana run in a mess and get flooded in places. Some parts become impassable. In the circumstances, bicycles and motorbikes are common for men and women commuters. No significant road repairs have been done since the David Granger-led Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) coalition Government won the elections in 2015. The laterite roads have not been maintained and have gone bad. Foxes, deer, iguanas and snakes can be seen crossing the tracks and trails.

The Amerindian spokesmen said that the former Bharrat Jagdeo-led People's Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) Government had shared State resources to all stakeholders without discrimination or party loyalty. A female spokesperson in Kuru said: "The previous government was most helpful. That Government did not look mainly at Georgetown, the city; they focused all over. They reached all over, even to the poorest. They gave us transportation, tractors, electricity, solar lights in every home ... at least now, we appreciate that."

The villagers claimed that under the former PPP/C Government, they were given tractors (with regular supplies of fuel) to cultivate their lands, and buses to transport children to school. Although education is free, many children in Kuru and elsewhere cannot write the high school exams (CXC) because they have to pay exam fees which they cannot afford. They need subsidised houses and a home for the aged. Under Granger, these benefits and resources, like the Community Support Office (CSO), have dwindled and even ceased.

Fence needed to protect the buildings

One Amerindian leader said, "It was sad when the PPP/C lost the elections in 2015. It was sad for the young people. They came to me a few years later and said, "Aunty, with the previous government, we had a lot of money to go shopping. The youths from various clusters came together to organize community events. ... With no Government assistance, the youths have left for Georgetown [the capital] and Brazil for jobs. But they would return one day. As the old people say, when the grey hairs begin to show, it is a reminder to go back home. It will be like that."

In the Amerindian village of Nappi, the Amerindian informants said that the Granger Government has accused the Jagdeo government of leaving the treasury bankrupt. If that were so, how come the Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) coalition Government has given its Cabinet Ministers a 50 percent increase in salary? What did Granger do with the money that Jagdeo had left? they asked.

Granger has wasted millions of taxpayers' dollars in the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in appealing the no-confidence motion (NCM) which APNU+AFC has lost in Parliament in December 2018. They also said that Granger misused taxpayers' money by illegally revising the voters' registration list which was unnecessary.

The villagers of Nappi said they need money to build a fence around the public buildings against marauding cows and sheep as well as reckless motor-bikers. The leader said that most of Nappi

residents have been seen wearing the symbolic red T-shirts in support of the PPP/C party. “They say that red is better than the green” [the symbol of APNU+AFC party].

No oil pipe dreams

The indigenous leaders said that the APNU+AFC coalition is both an illegal and illegitimate Government in power because it refused to demit office and call fresh elections since December 2018. It has also illegally and unilaterally appointed a Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM). They believe that the March 2nd 2020 general elections in Guyana will not be free and fair under Granger. There are questions about the credibility of the names on the voters’ registration list. The indigenous people do not live in hope that the discovery of oil in Guyana would bring them a better life. They said that the Granger Government has already given away the oil for a pittance of two percent (2%) royalty from Exxon and 1% from Tullow. In the rest of the world, the royalty rate was generally about 12.5%, but it has recently increased between 18% and 25%. They have heard that Exxon is a capitalistic, corrupt conglomerate that is expected to drain the economy and suck Guyana’s natural resources dry. They suspect that ExxonMobil will help Granger rig the December 2nd elections.

Dr Kumar Mahabir is an anthropologist from Trinidad & Jai Sears is a company director from Grenada.

UNBOUND Abolition of Girmity- Centennial Writings from Fiji Commemorating the centennial year of the abolition of girmity (Indenture Indian labor) from British India to Fiji. 1920-2020

Background

- On 14 May 1879 the first Indentured Indian laborers (Girmityas) arrived in Fiji from India.
- Over the next almost forty years over 60,000 Girmityas arrived in Fiji.
- On 11 November 1916, the last ship of Girmityas the Sutlej V came to Fiji.
- Under pressure from anti-indenture activists like C.F Andrews and Totaram Sanadhya, and Indian nationalists like Gokhale, and Gandhi, all indenture contracts in Fiji were abolished as of 1 January 1920. Call for Submissions Invitation for submissions of fiction- short story/poetry/artworks, photographs/reflective pieces/personal historiography related to the Girmity or indenture experience in Fiji. • Short Stories 5,000 words or Poems 2,500 words or less
- Reflective Pieces on Personal Girmity Stories/Histories, including scholars/researcher's personal connections to Indenture historiography – 6,500 words or less
- Artwork or photographs suitable for book format publication • All submissions in 11- or 12-point Times Roman font, 1.5 spaced black and white on A4.
- Multiple submissions welcomed, limited to 2 per genre. Previously published pieces are welcomed with proper release from copyright, if any.
- Email submissions only as a word document with a short biodata 200 words or less to mediaenigmafj@gmail.com before June 30, 2020.
- Projected date of publication October 2020. • Any enquiries please contact Dr Mohit Prasad on above email or (679) 92855336

Ramphal House recommissioned



ANARA KHAN AUTHOR

His Excellency, President David Granger, has recommissioned Ramphal House which is dedicated to Sir Shridath Ramphal, Guyana's second Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In his address, the Head of State noted that Sir Shridath was one of Guyana's most distinguished foreign service members and he continues to serve the nation.

"The Cooperative Republic of Guyana saw it fitting that this institute dedicated to educating our country's cadets and diplomats should be named after you Sir Shridath, one of the architects of Guyana's foreign relations."





The president added that Sir Shridath's stewardship and service to Guyana were "incontestable." Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings noted that the ministry had been evolving since its establishment pre-independence.

"As we approached independence, the British Government recognised the need to create an institution to carry out the external policies of the new state of Guyana; accordingly they created the Department of External Affairs which was housed in the Public Buildings."

However, Dr. Cummings explained that with the expanding mandate of the ministry, its operations were moved to the Takuba Lodge with protocol operations housed in the building next door. That annexe was dedicated to Sir Shridath for his outstanding services to the nation's diplomatic evolution.

The building, which also houses the Foreign Services Institute and the Ministry's library, underwent renovation from 2017 to 2019.

Members of the diplomatic corps and other invitees were guests at Thursday's event. Sir Shridath served as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1972 to 1975 and has since made significant contributions to the nation's international relations.



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The following GIHR courses run from September to July. They are available online, as well as in packages, for home study:

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Call for Papers and Abstracts for Guyana Institute of Historical Research 2020 Conference

Theme: Decolonization: Fully Independent

Date: 25-27 June 2020

Fee: USD\$25.00/GYD\$6,000.00

Venues: National Cultural Centre/ Walter Rodney Archives.

Abstracts and proposals will be accepted by 15 June 2020.

13th Research Conference

Hosted by the Guyana Institute of Historical Research

The Guyana Institute of Historical Research is pleased to call for papers and abstracts for its 13th Annual Conference.

For the 2020 conference, the committee will consider proposals on all aspects of the history of decolonization, especially encouraging submissions that reflect on this year's theme; submissions that focus on other topics will also be entertained by the Committee. Submissions of pre-organized panels and roundtables are strongly encouraged.

During the ONE day Conference, each panel will have 3-4 presenters (each 20-15 min., respectively), possibility of submission of a partial session with at least 2 presenters.

Panel, roundtable, and poster proposals will include the following information:

Panel proposals must include a panel title and 300-word abstract summarizing the theme of the panel; paper title and a 300-word abstract for each paper proposed; and a one-page professional curriculum vitae for each panelist (including the chair and commentator).

Roundtable proposals must include a roundtable title, a 300-word abstract summarizing the roundtable's themes and points of discussion, and a one-page curriculum vitae for each participant (including the moderator, if any).

Individual paper proposals are also welcome and must include a paper title, 300-word abstract of the paper, and one-page vita with contact information and email address. If accepted, individual papers will be assigned by the program committee to an appropriate panel with a chair and commentator. Volunteers, who wish to serve as chairs and commentators should send a one-page curriculum vitae to one of the following persons:

GIHR Conference specialist Syndrene Harris -syndrene@yahoo.com

Conference committee chair Tota Mangar -totamangar@gmail.com

Registrar Hazel Woolford -gihrinstitut@gmail.com

Proposals will be judged according to the following criteria:

Proposal explains the topic, research questions, methodologies, and historiographic significance in ways that specialists and non-specialists alike can understand. (10 points)

Proposal presents new findings or revisions of long-held interpretations. (10 points)

Proposal addresses the conference theme. (5 points)

Participants may present one paper, serve on a roundtable, or provide panel comments. They may not fill more than one of these roles during the conference, with the following exception: Members who act as panel chairs may deliver a paper, serve on a roundtable, or offer comments in another session. Members who serve as both the chair and commentator of a single session may not present in another session. If members attach themselves to more than one proposal in violation of the above

rules, then the first proposal that arrives will be considered by the program committee and any subsequent proposals that include that member will be rejected.

The conference registration fee, is to be paid in cash to the **Head of the Conference Secretariat** .

The Organizing Committee can assist in booking accommodation, but independent reservation is encouraged. Please note that early hotel reservation is strongly recommended.

Unfortunately, the Conference Organizing Committee has no means to support financially any Conference participant.

All the correspondence, other than that related to paper abstracts submission and acceptance, should be sent by e-mail for the Conference Organizing Committee, to the attention of the Head of Conferences, Mr. Tota Mangar- totamangar@gmail.com or GIHR Conference specialist

Syndrene Harris -syndrene@yahoo.com

The Organizing Committee would appreciate your familiarizing the members of your research/teaching unit, as well as all interested colleagues, with the present announcement.

Panels

1. **The movement towards Decolonization.**
 - a. Nationalist governments.
 - b. Subsidization.
 - c. Nationalism.
 - d. Guianization.
 - e. Political unification of the English Caribbean.
 - f. 1969.
2. **Birth of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.**
 - a. Presidential administrations.
 - b. A national identity.
 - c. Regionalism.
 - d. The Non-Aligned Movement.
 - e. WTO.
 - f. UNASUR.
3. **Gender equity.**
 - a. Law and policies.
 - b. Gender based violence.
 - c. People trafficking.
 - d. Women and the camera.
4. **Main trends in education development.**
 - a. Education Policy.
 - b. Church and state.
 - c. Politics and education.
 - d. Adult education and learning.
 - e. Ethnic studies.
 - f. Caribbean studies
 - g. Amerindian studies
5. **Militarism.**
 - a. Guyana Defence Force.
 - b. Guyana National Service.
 - c. People's Militia.
6. **Economic development.**

- a. Industrialization.
- b. Economic development.
- c. Food and nutrition security.
- d. Parallel economy.
- e. Barrel economy .
- f. Socio economic transformation in Guyana and the Caribbean.
- g. Trade union movement.
- h. Central bank.
- I Guyana National Cooperative Bank.
- 7. **Culture and the Arts.**
 - a. CARIFESTA.
 - b. GUYFESTA.
 - c. FESTAC.
 - d. Spirituality.
 - e. Folklore.
 - f. The writings of Walter Rodney.
 - g. The creole world of Guyana and the Caribbean.
 - h. The Guyana prize.
- 8. **Migration.**
 - a. Indentured servants.
 - b. The Wind rush generation.
 - c. Illegal migration.
- 9. **Slavery, Abolition and, Reparations.**
 - a. Coping with the Difficult Past: Remembering and Forgetting the Slave Trade and Slavery in Africa, Europe, and the Americas.
- 10. **International Relations.**
 - a. The world economic order.
 - b. Globalization.
 - c. Non Aligned Movement.
 - d. The Problem of Territorial Settlement in Contemporary Guyana.
 - e. The Diasporas: Historical and Contemporary.

Exhibitions

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Heritage Tour

Date: 25 June

Fee: GYD\$500.00

Welcome reception

Date: 26 June

Plenary sessions

Date: 27 June.



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REGISTRATION FORM

Thirteenth Conference of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research, at the
National Cultural Center on Saturday, 27 June 2020

Theme: Decolonization: Fully independent

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Prof.

Name: _____

Address _____

Telephone Number: _____ (Home)

_____ (Office)

_____ (Cell)

E-mail: _____

Organisation: _____

Educator Post graduate student Researcher Administrator

Please submit a hard copy of your conference paper in the week of the conference for the conference secretariat to make multiple copies for distribution to registered participants. If unable to do so, please bring additional copies and, the Conference secretariat will print the extra copies for distribution.

Will you need a DVD / Video? Yes No

Early Registration fee: USD 25.00/GYD6,000

Late Registration fee: USD40.00/GYD 10,000

Cost of DVD: \$5,000.

Please fill out this form or a photocopy completely and send it with your registration fee to: Guyana Institute of Historical Research, 106 Atlantic Gardens, Montrose, East Coast Demerara, Guyana/pay on the day of conference .

Contact person: Ms. Syndrene Harris

Please download, scan and print



Registration form for exhibitors.

Thirteenth Annual Conference of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research
at the National Cultural Centre, Saturday 27 June 2019

1. Dr. [] Mr. [] Mrs. [] Ms. [].

2. Publishing House.....

3. Organization.

4. Name:

5. Address:

6. E-mail address:.....

7. Telephone numbers: (Home)

..... (Office)

..... (Cell)

8. Requirements.

- Please bring your tablecloth.
- Please bring your banner.
- Please have someone sit alongside your table.
- Please report to the Exhibition coordinator.

9. Will you need a DVD / Video of the conference proceedings? Yes [] No [].

10. Registration fee: \$5,000.00

Cost of the DVD: \$5,000.00

Please fill out this form or a photocopy completely and, deliver in person with your registration fee to the Guyana Institute of Historical Research at 106, Atlantic Gardens, Montrose, East Coast Demerara, Guyana, or on the day of the conference to the Head of the Conference Secretariat.

- Registration fee entitles participants to tea, lunch and afternoon snacks.
- DVD provides complete recording of the conference.

Participants are asked to leave the environment in the same way in which you found it.

Please download, scan and print



Guyana's National awards

On the occasion of the 50th Republic Anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of

Guyana, His Excellency David Granger, MSS, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Chancellor of the Orders of Guyana is pleased to make the following appointments under the Order of Roraima and the Order of Service of Guyana.

Order of Roraima

1. Hon Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

Order of Service

1. Cacique's Crown of Honour
2. The Right Reverend Charles Alexander Davidson
3. Abraham Augustus Clemwood Fung-A-Fat
4. Neville Bhagwandeem Gobin
5. Edmond Montague Grant
6. Professor John Edward Greene
7. Cecil Edward Harricharran
8. Fawcett Anthony Jeffrey
9. Dagleish Joseph
10. Ambassador Charlene Alexis Phoenix
11. Justice William Rajendra Ramlall
12. Claude Augustus Saul
13. Nehaul Prashad Singh
14. Paul Esmond Slowe
15. Michael Orrin David Somersall
16. Godfrey Steve Statia

Golden Arrow of Achievement

1. Mark Anthony Archer
2. Mavis Anita Benn
3. Marlan Kwesi Cole
4. Charles Mitroy Corbin
5. Reverend Roshanna Gillis
6. Catherina Penda Guyan
7. Sheran Roxanna Harper
8. Troy Henry
9. Loris Emille Heywood
10. Ranald Andrew Jacobs

11. Pastor Richard Avert James
12. Edward Jameson
13. Zaida Joaquin
14. Lincoln Brandon Lewis
15. Frederick McWilfred
16. Cita Indranie Pilgrim
17. Cheryl Sampson
18. Olive Beverly Sampson
19. Varshnie Udho Singh
20. Clinton Murphy Williams
21. Apostle Jason Clifton Yorrick

Medal of Service

1. Wesley Adrian Benjamin
2. Mark Anthony Benschop
3. Paulette Patricia Bollers
4. Terrence Glenberth Boston
5. Donna Bowen
6. Lucille Elaine Cadogan
7. Beverly Clenkien
8. Jenny Benn-Daly
9. Ann Pamela Forde
10. Gregory Douglas Fraser
11. Claire Ann Goring
13. Virgil Harding
14. Phyllis Erica Jackson
15. Glenyss Barbara James
16. Jainarine Maraj
17. Leon Randolph Mc Donald
18. Doreen Evelyn Blackman Ng-A-Qui
19. Kisson Dyal Persaud
20. Premnauth Prashad
21. Urica Yernes Primus
22. Deserdeen Roberts
23. Kaylan Persaud Sharma
24. Beverly Ann Somerset

Military Service Medal

1. Colonel Raul Kenneth Jerrick
2. Lieutenant Colonel Denzil Walter Carmichael

Disciplined Services Star

1. Chief Fire Officer Marlon Anthony Gentle

Disciplined Services Medal

1. Assistant Commissioner of Police Kevin Adonis
2. Assistant Commissioner of Police Edgar Mortimer Thomas
3. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Jacqueline Bonita Greene

Meet Dr. Aubrey Thompson

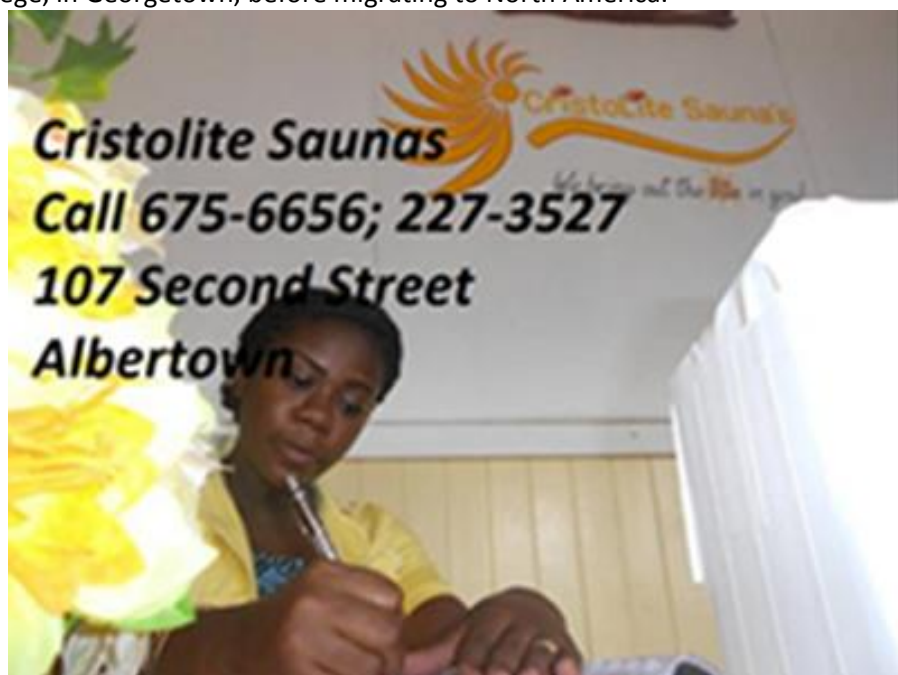


He attended the Essequibo Island Govt. Secondary School - Wakenaam, Guyana. He had taught, at the St. John's College, in Georgetown, before migrating to North America.



Dr. Aubrey Thompson, lectures in African-American history; Atlantic and world history, at the Morgan State University.

Dr. Aubrey Thompson (Ph. D., M.A. Howard Univ.; B.A. Univ. of Guyana): African Diaspora; Latin America. He is married to Dr. Loraine Fredericks Thompson. Dr. Thompson, is a dedicated historian. His roots are strongly, grounded in the island of Wakenaam. Studied History at UG/ Howard U/ Morgan State U.



First Lady lays out path for reelection of President Granger



**Minister of State Dawn Hastings-Williams presenting President David Granger with a certificate for his contributions towards the development of women and girls. A simple gesture was made to the First Lady, Mrs. Sandra Granger.
By Svetlana Marshall**

WITH less than four days away from the highly-anticipated General and Regional Elections, First Lady Sandra Granger on Thursday made a strong case for the return of the A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance for Change (APNU+AFC) coalition, as she pointed to the significant strides made in safeguarding the rights of women and girls.

Addressing a multitude of supporters at the Parade Ground on Thursday during the APNU+AFC Women's Rally, the First Lady, in the presence of her husband, President David Granger, and other senior functionaries in the 'Coalition', said that prior to 2015, women in Guyana were dismissed by the then PPP Government, even as they endured varying levels of domestic violence and suppression.

"You remember the cussing out? You remember how they threatened to slap us and strip our sister? You remember the lies and deceit?" the First Lady asked, as the thousands of women responded with a loud "Yes!" The person to whom she was referring was Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, who, while serving as Minister of Public Health under the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration, verbally abused activist, Sherlina Nageer. He had threatened to slap her less than one month away from the May 2015 elections. Mrs. Granger also criticised the PPP/C Administration's "No-Child Left Behind" initiative. For her, such an initiative was a recipe for disaster in the education sector. The Automatic Promotion Policy, popularly called the "No child left behind" programme was promoted under the leadership of former Minister of Education Shaik Baksh, in a bid to correct what was said to be the adverse effects as a result of Grade Repetition initiative. However, the policy was rejected by the masses, educators in particular, who felt that if a child is not performing in a class, he or she must not be automatically allowed to move on to the next grade. Educators had explained that the policy created gaps, whereby a child is unable to successfully

achieve the basics from an earlier grade, and is thus unable to build upon what it is he or she is supposed to know.



First Lady Sandra Granger addressing APNU+AFC supporters at the Parade Ground

Mrs. Granger said that unlike the PPP/C Administration, the APNU+AFC Coalition respects women and children, and understands their needs. The First Lady said that with her husband at the helm of the government, women, men and children have been lifted out of poverty, a trend he intends to continue upon his re-election to office.

Mrs. Granger noted also that significant strides were made in the health sector in less than five years, even as she recalled the days



when mothers had little or no choice but to 'double-up' on a single bed in the Maternity Ward of the Georgetown Public Hospital (GPHC).

"We have more water ambulances; we have people who are now able to go to their regional hospitals and get their tests done... We have improvements in our Mental Health Services, and over 90 per cent vaccination coverage, so that we no longer fear our children contracting polio, tetanus and tuberculosis," she pointed out.

That aside, the First Lady challenged supporters to compare the steps taken by the past and current administration to foster gender equality. She said the record would show that the Granger Administration has put systems in place to foster gender equality. Reference was also made to the increase in Old Age Pension (OAP).

Supporters at the APNU+AFC Women's rally

The Old Age Pension was increased on February 1. Additionally, in November 2019, the minimum basic salary in the public service climbed to \$70,000 from \$64,200. And between July 1, 2015 and January 1, 2019, the government increased the minimum wage by more than 76 per cent. The salaries and allowances of teachers and nurses have also been increased, she posited.

The APNU+AFC Government, the First Lady pointed out, too, has increased public assistance to vulnerable women and children. These women, she posited, have also been exposed to a range of entrepreneurial programmes, in a bid to increase their economic independence.

In the area of Education, Mrs. Granger said major emphasis has been placed on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and even robotics. The First Lady also noted that improvements have been seen in the areas of Public Infrastructure, Housing, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Public Services, Entrepreneurship and Youth.

2 March 2020 Election Update

Guyanese,

The General and Regional Elections of 2nd March 2020 were conducted peacefully and in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Guyana. The events, thereafter, have marred the excellent work of the Elections Commission.

The electoral process, as initiated by the Elections Commission, is incomplete. The Elections Commission is the sole authority for making a declaration of the results of the General and Regional Elections.

Confusion ensued at the Office of the Returning Officer for District Four in the wee hours of Wednesday, 4th March 2020 as a result of an invasion of the premises by political elements.

Statements following the events of 4th March by the observer missions also created uncertainty in the minds of the citizenry.

The Opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), so far approached the Supreme Court on three separate occasions to obstruct the work of the Elections Commission. Those actions coupled with the calls for recount, allowed for the Supreme Court to determine the way forward. This was done.

The Chairperson of the Elections Commission, Justice (Ret'd) Claudette Singh, has stated publicly that she will abide by the ruling of the Court. I, too, have said that I will abide by the ruling of the Court.

As result of the delays and statements by the observer missions, the Caribbean Community sent a five-member delegation of Prime Ministers to Guyana on a two-day mission on 11-12 March to work with stakeholders to craft a path forward out of the present political situation.

Prime Minister of Barbados, the Right Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, who is also Chairperson of CARICOM, was accompanied by Prime Ministers Dr. Keith Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago, Roosevelt Skerrit of Dominica, Dr. Keith Mitchell of Grenada and Dr. Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In response to the CARICOM Initiative by the five Prime Ministers, I agreed that a 'total national recount' could be done to satisfy the questions raised by the observers and the citizenry.

I had a teleconference with Prime Minister Mia Mottley Today, 15th March 2020. I proposed that the CARICOM Initiative should operate within the legal framework of the Constitution of Guyana and respect the role of the Elections Commission and the rulings of the Supreme Court. It will not act independently. I urged, also, that the Commission be allowed to craft the Terms of Reference governing the relationship between the CARICOM Initiative and the Elections Commission.

The Organisational Structure which should embody supervisory and technical elements should be determined by the Elections Commission.

The Government of Guyana looks forward to a 'total national recount' being completed as soon as possible under the auspices of the Elections Commission.

Guyanese, I iterate that I have no role to play in the work of the Elections Commission. I cannot bring the process to an end; the Elections Commission must be allowed to do its work.

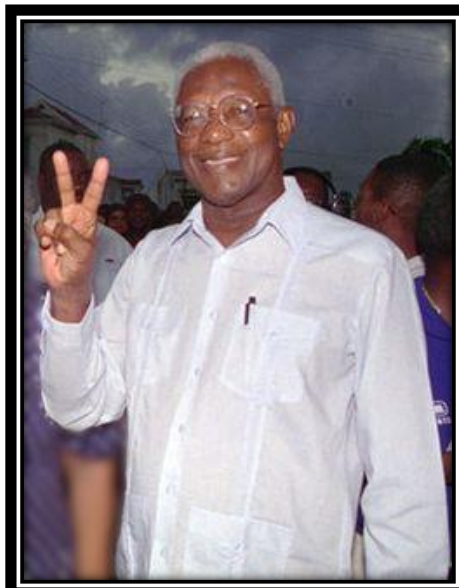
I am committed to the rule of law and the Constitution. I respect the integrity and autonomous nature of the Elections Commission. I will abide by the declarations of the Elections Commission as I have abided by the rulings of the Court.

I urge you to be patient as we comply with the rulings of the Court and the decisions of the Commission. I advise you to avoid provocation by certain lawless elements who committed acts of violence against innocent school children, nurses and police officers.

Guyanese, as we await the conclusion of the electoral process, we must be reminded of the very difficult public health environment occasioned by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

I appeal to the public to remain calm and to implement all the advisories relating to personal hygiene, social distancing and overall infection prevention and control.

Birth anniversaries



The late President Desmond Hoyte
(9 March 1929-22 December 2002)



The late President Cheddi Bharrat Jagan
(22 March 1918-6 March 1997)

Death anniversaries



The late President Janet Jagan
(October 20, 1920 – March 28, 2009)



First Public Relations Officer of the Guyana Institute of
Historical Research. Orlando Michael (25 July 1957-30
March 2015).

Quotes of the President of Guyana



1. Guyanese, it is my sad duty to announce Guyana confirmed its first imported case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Georgetown on Wednesday, 11th March 2020.
2. Screening remains in place for those persons arriving from high-risk countries. Seven countries – Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Brazil, French Guiana, Panama, St. Vincent and the United States of America – have been added to the list of eight (People’s Republic of China, Italy, South Korea, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Iran) that was previously made public.
3. I use this opportunity to appeal to the public to remain calm and to implement all the advisories relating to personal hygiene, social distancing and overall infection prevention and control. The Government of Guyana will continue to keep the public informed as we manage this public health challenge.
4. Small States, on their own, cannot hope to combat these transnational threats,” President Granger said. He noted that the Caribbean Basin Initiative is a necessary mechanism but it is not sufficient. “The small state has now become the central focus of international relations in the region. The end of bipolar international relations has allowed the spotlight to focus on the security of small states.
5. CARICOM plays a very important role. Not only is the headquarters of CARICOM in Guyana, Guyana was of course a founding member of CARICOM. The five Prime Ministers, Barbados, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines [and Grenada] came to Guyana and they were honest. They were committed to working with Guyana and the stakeholders in Georgetown and the rest of the country to craft a path forward out of the present situation.
6. They were fully engaged and they worked very hard and aimed at getting a solution to the present situation. I would say it was successful. I was very happy with the outcome and in general terms, we met with former President Jagdeo and we agreed that on Thursday, the two sides, [the] Government side and the Opposition side of the Elections Commission would meet and work out some way of implementing fully, the ruling of Chief Justice Roxane George.
7. I urge all Guyanese – regardless of religion or region of residence – to continue to live in harmony, to eschew hatred and to contribute to the common good by strengthening social cohesion and heightening national consciousness.

8. It would be unlawful. I have no role to play. The matter is before the Chief Justice and I will await the ruling of the Chief Justice.
9. Let the Elections Commission do its work. Let us not resort to violent action, to protests and demonstrations. We have had too much of that. Last week, someone got killed, school buses were stoned, school children injured, police men chased from the streets. This is not the atmosphere for arriving at a solution that satisfies the Guyanese people. It could lead to provocation, retaliation. All Guyanese need to observe the role of the Elections Commission. Let the Elections Commission do its work.
10. I am committed to the rule of law and the Constitution. We will abide by the declaration of the Elections Commission. Like all of Guyana, we are waiting.

Dear Business Professionals,

Clarke's Productions (CP), is a training and consultancy organization and has been established now for well over ten (10) years.

For the past ten (10) years CP would have built a solid networking base, so this has made us more viable as a company. With our Consulting and Marketing abilities we have strategically placed ourselves in a very positive position to assist you and your organization in your growth process.

Clarke's Productions can aid your organization in the following Areas:

- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Consultation
- Training & Development
- Networking with other Companies

Below is a list of some of the organizations that (CP) has conducted training and training related activities

for:

- Edward B. Be Harry group of Companies
- Guyana Water Inc.
- Georgetown School of Nursing
- The Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry Ltd (CAGI)
- Jocelyn Williams (JTW)
- Regency Hotel
- Guysuco
- Sleep Inn Hotel
- Suriname Airways
- ☐ Squared Consulting
- Critchlow Labour College
- Professional Training, Employment and Consultancy Services(PTEC)

Should you need further information or have any queries please feel free to contact us on office number (592)-502-4680/ Cell (592) - 659-9596/ (592) 663-0324 or visit our website

www.clarkespro.org.

Yours Sincerely,
Adrian Clarke

Guyana to shut borders



The Cheddi Jagan International Airport (CJIA)

...in bid to slow spread of Coronavirus

Following the lead of several other countries, Guyana is likely to close its borders and restrict air travel today as this country battles to contain the spread of the Coronavirus, the Guyana Chronicle was told.

The official announcement is to be made before today. Several other countries have taken the same step. The 27-nation European Union proposed shutting its external borders for 30 days on Monday. On Saturday the Ministry of Public Health announced that some four persons have been tested positive with the virus. They are all relatives of a woman who contracted the virus in New York, but traveled here and passed away last week. Her husband, daughter and two other relatives have been tested positive. Authorities are also concerned that several persons who travelled on a flight with the woman to Guyana might have been exposed to the disease. Hundreds also attended her wake at Good Hope, East Coast Demerara and interacted with relatives who were exposed to the woman. Many of them are under quarantine.

Meanwhile, the Trinidad and Tobago government Monday announced that only nationals would be allowed into the country for the next 14 days as it seeks to establish a sterile environment in a bid to curb the rise in the number of cases associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19). Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley, speaking at a news conference following a special Cabinet meeting, said also that his administration would be embarking upon several other measures, including the closure of bars, schools, and new economic policies as the twin island republic comes to grip with the virus after having so far recorded four positive cases within a 48 hour period. "We have taken the decision that Trinidad and Tobago will cease to encourage and facilitate for the next 14 days entry into our country, except under exceptional circumstances, the entry of persons who are not nationals of Trinidad and Tobago," Rowley told reporters.

He said the exemptions will come from the Minister of Health through the Minister of National Security. Rowley said among those likely to be given exemptions are employees of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), which is the main agency conducting tests for most Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries on the virus, as well as health personnel "and similar essential persons who we need. Suriname also last week took a decision to close the Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport, also known as Paramaribo-Zanderij International Airport Suriname. This was as the country recorded its first COVID-19 case on Friday. In a statement issued on Friday night, Caribbean Airlines (CAL) said all airlines operating into Suriname were advised by notice that the airport will initially be closed from March 14-21. CAL noted

that during the period of the airport closure, its flights will be impacted and affected customers are being contacted. The Government Agencies have indicated that after midnight on Friday any flight given approval to operate to Suriname will do so under certain conditions. Flight arrivals will accommodate Surinamese residents only and flight departures will facilitate Non-Surinamese nationals only. Passengers expected to travel during these dates are advised to contact Caribbean Airlines reservation offices for rebooking on the next available service:

Outside of the region Canada closed its borders to all foreign nationals except U.S. citizens and permanent residents on Monday, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urging people to limit social contact to stem the spread of the new coronavirus. "We will be denying entry into Canada to people who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents ... it is a significant step that we take in exceptional circumstances," Trudeau told reporters outside his home, where he is under quarantine after his wife, Sophie, tested positive for the respiratory virus. As the virus' spread accelerates in Canada, Trudeau urged people to stay home and restrict contact with others. "Staying home is an important step to protect the community and each other. We all have to do it," he said. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, said that the next two weeks were crucial in trying to stem the outbreak. The death toll in Canada rose to four on Monday from one on Sunday. The number of infected jumped to 407 from the 341 reported at 9 a.m. (1300 GMT) earlier in the day, medical officials said.

Coronavirus symptoms: how quickly do they show and what to look out for

This guide on coronavirus symptoms, underpinned with advice from leading health experts, is designed to protect you and your family

By [Paul Nuki](#), GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY EDITOR and [Global Health Security Team](#)

The new [coronavirus \(Covid-19\)](#) is spreading fast. More than 250,000 people are known to be infected, and more than 10,300 deaths have been recorded [worldwide](#).

The bulk of [new cases](#) being recorded each day are now outside China, and the virus is [spreading](#) at some speed across Europe.

There have now been more than 3,260 confirmed [cases in the UK](#), although at least 10,000 people are thought to be infected, and 177 patients have died. [More than 50,000 people have now been tested in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland](#).

Experts have been warning for years that the world is overdue a [major disease outbreak](#), but there is much that individuals can do to protect themselves and others.

This practical guide is designed to keep you safe and will be updated daily. It is underpinned with advice from leading experts in the NHS and beyond.

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause disease in animals. Seven, including the new virus, have made the jump to humans, but most just cause common cold-like symptoms.

Two coronaviruses – Middle East respiratory syndrome (Mers) and severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars) – are much more severe, [having killed more than 1,500 people between them](#) since 2002.

The new virus, officially known as Covid-19, is also more dangerous than the common cold. So far, around 15 to 20 per cent of hospital cases have been classed as "severe" and the current death rate varies between 0.7 per cent and 3.4 per cent depending on the location and, crucially, [access to good hospital care](#).

This is much lower than Mers (30 per cent) or Sars (10 per cent), but still a significant threat.

Scientists in China believe that [Covid-19 has mutated into two strains](#), one more aggressive than the other, which could make developing a vaccine more complicated.

What are the symptoms of the new coronavirus?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the main symptoms of the coronavirus usually include:

A dry cough

A temperature

Tiredness/lethargy

Shortness of breath (in more severe cases)

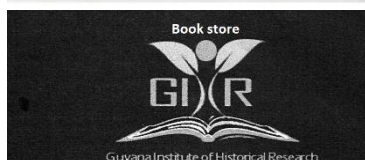
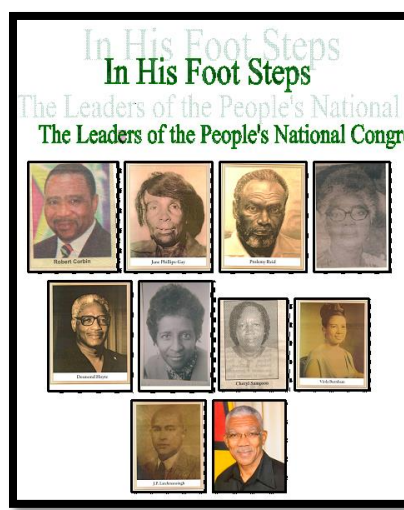
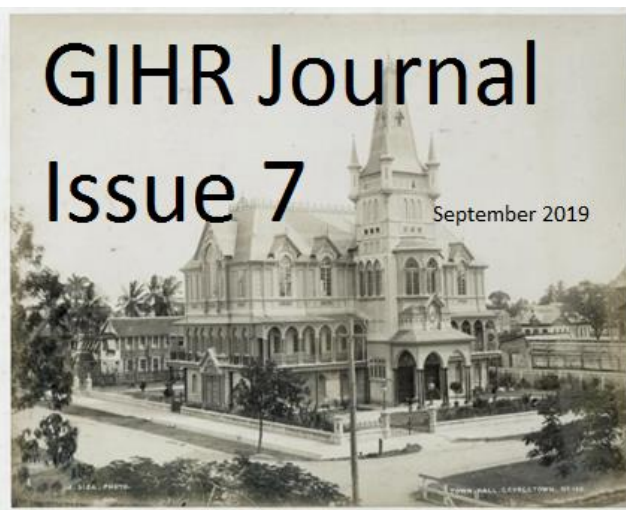
Some patients may have "aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea", the WHO adds. "These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell".

These symptoms are similar to other respiratory diseases including flu and the common cold. So if you have symptoms, consider the following:

Have you travelled to a [high risk area](#) such as China, South Korea or Northern Italy in the last two weeks?

Have you been in close contact with someone with coronavirus

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