Cabinet members of the new APNU+AFC Government

H.E. David A. Granger, MSM, MSS
President

Hon. Moses Nagamootoo
First Vice President
Prime Minister

Hon. Joseph Harmon
Minister of State & Head
Presidential Secretariat

Hon. Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Minister of Education

Hon. Basil Williams
Attorney General
Minister of Legal Affairs

Hon. Joseph Harmon
Minister of State & Head
Presidential Secretariat

Hon. Sydney Allicock
Minister of Indigenous
Affairs

Hon. Volda Lawrence
Minister of Social
Protection

Hon. Ronald Bulkan
Minister of Communities

Hon. Carl Greenidge
Minister of Foreign
Affairs

Hon. Basil Williams
Attorney General
Minister of Legal Affairs

Hon. Volda Lawrence
Minister of Social
Protection

Hon. Sydney Allicock
Minister of Indigenous
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Junior Ministers

Hon. Carl Greenidge
Minister of Foreign
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Protection

Hon. Ronald Bulkan
Minister of Communities

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The Venezuelan Boundary Dispute officially began in 1841, when the newly independent Government protested alleged British encroachment on Venezuelan territory. By 1845, Great Britain had acquired British Guiana (now Guyana) by treaty with the Netherlands. Because the treaty did not define a western boundary, the British commissioned Robert Schomburgk, a surveyor and naturalist, delineate that boundary. His 1835 survey resulted in what came to be known as the Schomburgk Line, a boundary that effectively claimed an additional 30,000 square miles for Britain.

In 1841 Venezuela disputed the British delineation, claiming territorial delineations established at the time of their independence from Spain in 1821. Venezuela claimed its borders extended as far east as the Essequibo River—an effective claim on two-thirds of British Guiana’s territory. When gold was discovered in the disputed territory, Great Britain sought to further extend its reach, claiming an additional 33,000 square miles west of the Schomburgk Line, an area where gold had been discovered. In 1876 Venezuela protested, bringing diplomatic relations with Great Britain to a standstill.

The People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR) wishes to recognize the efforts and sacrifices of the top 10 students and their parents as well as the efforts of their teachers to ensure their successful participation in the vital 2015 National Grade Six Assessment (NGSA) examinations which represent the foundation for the advancement to the secondary school level.

The Party offers its congratulations to the Top 100 students and recognised the special efforts and success of the Top 10 students: Solomon Cheria, Shania Eastman, Celine Farina, Shreya Persaud, Isabella Hussain, Afefeh London, Travis Isaac, Bhedesh Persaud, Reanna McCurchin, and Timur Singh.

The PNCR regrets notes that Government schools continue to be out-performed by private institutions and, additionally, far too many Guyanese children are being failed by our education system.

The new APNU+AFC Government is resolutely committed to ensuring that Guyana becomes once again an “education nation”. Therefore, every effort will be made to radically improve the quality of education being offered to all Guyanese children.

The Party wishes all of the students every success as they advance through the Secondary Schools to which they have been awarded and hope that they will eventually progress to tertiary level institutions.

“Education is the Key.”

The editorial focuses on the urgent need to address public safety, infrastructure, and education issues in Guyana. It highlights the importance of the new coalition government under President David Granger, emphasizing the need for ingenuity, planning, and a devolution of power to address critical problems. The article mentions the need for innovative methods to control weapons and the role of the police force in restoring confidence. It also touches on the lawlessness and its impact on road safety and the urgent need to patrol coastal roads.

The feature article delves into the historical context of the Venezuelan Boundary Dispute, starting with the British acquisition of British Guiana in 1845. It discusses the British’s attempts to extend their territorial claims, leading to a dispute over the Schomburgk Line in 1841. The article outlines the legal and diplomatic efforts made by both nations to resolve the dispute, including the establishment of the 1895 arbitration commission and the rejection of the United States’ attempt to intervene.

The article explores the significance of the Monroe Doctrine in the context of the dispute and the Schomburgk Line’s role as a boundary. It highlights the importance of the arbitration commission’s decision, which ultimately preserved the 1835 territorial delineation. The Venezuelan Boundary dispute is noted as having had a lasting impact on Guyana’s geopolitical boundaries and international relations.

The feature article also touches on the educational challenges faced by Guyana, including a lack of resources, underfunded schools, and the need for a holistic education system. It acknowledges the efforts of the Guyana Education and Health care systems to address these issues, but also highlights the need for a comprehensive strategy to improve the quality of education and healthcare across the nation.
Greening the energy sector in Guyana, by substantially increasing investment in renewable energy, provides an opportunity to make a significant contribution to addressing the challenges of 1) concerns about energy security; 2) combating climate change; 3) reducing pollution and public-health hazards; and 4) addressing energy poverty.

Renewable energy is derived from natural processes that are replenished constantly. In its various forms, it arises directly or indirectly from the sun, or from heat generated deep within the earth. Included in the definition is energy generated from solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, hydropower and ocean resources, and biofuels and hydrogen derived from renewable resources (IEA 2008a).

In his address, at the commencement of the 11th Parliament of Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana, His Excellency President David Granger laid out his visions for Guyana. We shall introduce a strategy to protect the population from hazards, to preserve the environment from further degradation and to sustain development.

Your Government will introduce an energy policy that utilizes our wind, water and solar power to provide cheap, renewable electricity to more Gyanese in our urban, rural, riverain and hinterland communities.

We shall support the responsible exploitation of the hinterland’s mineral and other natural resources. We shall ensure, however, that the livelihood of the residents is sustained and that the environment is protected by the rigorous enforcement of environmental laws.

Guyana has a rich endowment of potential for renewable energy that can help meet and surpass our short and long term energy needs. According to the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA), there are 67 identified potential hydro-electricity generation sites in Guyana. Solar Electricity is already being used in a limited way, particularly in the hinterland regions. We see a ‘green economy’ as one that sustains economic prosperity, environmental security and social well-being. It will allow the current generation to satisfy its needs without jeopardizing the opportunity of future generations to satisfy theirs. We shall confront the challenges of solid waste management, coastal zone conservation, flooding, public health and damage to rivers and forests by poorly-regulated mining and logging practices. We shall introduce a strategy to protect the population from hazards, to preserve the environment from further degradation and to sustain development.

Under the Unserved Areas Electrification Programme (UAEP), a number of communities have received solar photovoltaic’s home systems. Wind energy has been explored and has good prospects. These opportunities must be considered within the context of sound environmental practices. Biomass also presents the opportunity for diversifying the sugar industry, providing income generation opportunities as well as providing a relatively cheap source of power.

The development of these resources must be given priority as part of our national development and national security strategy. Guyana’s high dependence on the Petro-Caribe arrangement can mean higher risk to the security of the national energy supply. Diversifying our energy matrix thus presents both a considerable challenge and an opportunity.

Diversifying energy sources is not a new concept, nor is it unique to Guyana. In the United States of America, solar, wind, geothermal, bio-energy and water energy are all part of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action plan. Developed countries, in the context of Climate change issues are driving the growth of renewable and ‘green energy’. This means that outside of producing clean energy for domestic purposes, there is a huge potential for income generation. There are significant economic opportunities for countries that manufacture and produce clean energy.

In a report compiled by the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Green Economy initiative in collaboration with economists and experts worldwide. It was demonstrated that the greening of economies did not generally place a drag on growth; rather green economies proved to be net generators of decent jobs, and a vital strategy for the elimination of poverty.

With high rates of unemployment and underemployment especially among the youth population, Guyana has a great opportunity for transformation and job growth. Training in science and technology is already a focus of the new administration. This will allow the young people of Guyana to be able to take advantage of an expanding industry. The new well-paying jobs that will be accrued by the creation of ‘Wind and Solar Farms’, the building and operation of recycling plants for plastic, paper, bottles and car tires etc.; the banning of non-biodegradable substances like styrofoam, can all prove to be transformational for both the economy and the environment.

Placing environmental protection at the forefront of a ‘green’ energy sector means that natural resources can be exploited in a way that ensures sustainability while becoming an economic driver, which provides cheaper energy sources, creates jobs and ensures public health.

National Awards, 2015

On Sunday 26th May 2015, in commemoration of Guyana’s 49th anniversary of Independence, His Excellency Brigadier David A. Granger, MSM, MSS, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and Chancellor of the Orders of Guyana made several appointments to the order of service of Guyana.

Several stalwarts of the People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR), were among the more than forty Gyanese who received national awards. For his long and outstanding involvement in the struggle for independence, and for his role in providing public service for three generations, Mr. Hamilton Green, former Prime Minister was awarded the Order of Roraima (OR), the country’s second highest award.

For long outstanding and dedicated service in the field of politics, the public service and community work, Ms. Edith Bynoe, former Minister in the PNC Government was awarded the Cacique’s Crown of Honour (CCH). For long and dedicated service as an Ambassador in the Guyana Foreign Service and the field of Politics, Mr. Oscar Clarke, General Secretary of the PNCR was awarded the Cacique’s Crown of Honour (CCH). Also receiving the Cacique’s Crown of Honour (CCH), was PNCR Central Executive Member, Ms. Yvonne Haywood Benn for long dedicated and outstanding service in the fields of education and politics and as a Minister of the Government and in the Guyana Foreign Service. Clifton Mortimer Llewelyn John, former Minister of Agriculture, Home Affairs and Local Government received the Cacique’s Crown of Honour (CCH) for long and exceptional Service as Minister of the Government and in the field of Law.

The Golden Arrow of Achievement (AA), for long and dedicated service as a teacher and as a community worker in Region No. 2 was awarded to Doreen Patricia Duncan. Other Party stalwarts receiving this award were Mitzy Campbell, Basil Blackman, and Prince Albert Pompey.

The Medal of Service (MS), for long and dedicated service in the field of politics was awarded to Mabel Baveghems, PNCR General Council member and former Member of Parliament. Dionysia Niewenkerk of the Upper Takatu-Upper Essequibo Region, Region No. 9 was also awarded the Medal of Service (MS) for long service in the field of women’s affairs and in politics.
SOCIETY

Junior Ministers

Hon. Keith Scott
Communities

Hon. Jaipaul Sharma
Finance

Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe
Indigenous Affairs

Hon. Dawn Hastings
Communities

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Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Carl Greenidge told Guyanese in Washington DC that the new Government foreign policy will improve the country’s international standing, stimulate greater economic development and create conditions for increased remigration. Noting that the enthusiastic support for the new Government following its election was evident both locally and among the Diaspora, he observed that the Diaspora is an underutilized resource while assuring his compatriots that the Government will put measures in place to enable them to satisfy their patriotic urge to contribute to the country’s national development.

Addressing an overflow crowd gathered at a reception in his honour at the Guyana Embassy in Washington DC, Minister Greenidge declared that international co-operation, including the contributions of Guyanese Diaspora, was an essential component in Guyana’s mission to address the needs of its communities and improve the standard of living of its people.

He pointed out that the prevailing spirit of boundless optimism and energy among Guyana’s people would be needed to supersede the challenges inherent in fashioning a just, prosperous and stable society.

The Foreign Minister assured the gathering that the Government is capable of defending Guyana’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and that conditions are favourable for improved economic prospects. Vice President Greenidge expressed the Government’s appreciation for the contributions of overseas nationals to development of the country and urged them to maintain a spirit of unity and inclusive in their activities.
Maternity Ward to be expanded

Minister within the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Karin Cummings recently visited the Maternity Ward of the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), where she met with nurses and doctors attached to that unit. The Minister was briefed on the current state of affairs of the department and what will be required to ensure a more efficient operation.

Head of the Department, Dr. Lucio Pedro and Dr. Lindsey Evans, a consultant attached to the GPHC accompanied Dr. Cummings on her tour of the facility. The Head of Department explained the operation of the Maternity ward and the challenges facing the staff.

The issue of overcrowding and the maternal deaths were raised along with staff education. Minister Cummings assured the staff that the issue of overcrowding in the wards with more than one patient to a bed will be rectified. She said that work was currently ongoing on an extension to the ward.

Minister Cummings also commended the doctors in the Maternity Ward whom she noted were doing admirable work. She noted that they were working with standard treatment guidelines and explained that with several levels of student nurses working together along with the General Medical Officer, "this will be a good team... in cases of emergencies." she declared.

Minister Cummings said that there was now an operating theatre in the Maternity Ward, she said that this will be expanded to allow for an Intensive Care Unit. This the Minister pointed out would help prevent patients from having to go to the main theatre located in a different part of the hospital.

The Minister concluded that "all in all efforts are being made to improve the system and that's a good sign." Minister Cummings was accompanied on her visit by Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Michael Khan and other senior hospital officials.

Overseas donor gives back to her country

On Tuesday 16th June 2015, children of the Guyohc community received clothing and other items from an overseas donor, Caring for Others, Inc.

Caring For Others, Inc. (CFO) is a human services organization established in November 2001 to facilitate personal dignity and provide basic necessities to economically-disadvantaged individuals, senior citizens, the disabled, the unemployed, and families with children.

This organisation is based in Atlanta, Georgia and offers an advanced model for human services that strives to prevent the familiar cycle of poverty many people face today. They help to stabilize lives by meeting immediate basic needs of food and clothing, and then provide support to help clients become more self-sufficient. Caring For Others, Inc., (CFO) exists for the purpose of helping those without the basic necessities to live with dignity.

Ms. Eslene Richmond-Shockley, Nabadis born, who is President, CEO and Founder of CFO was assisted in the distribution of these items by Ms. Yvonne Harewood-Benn and Mr. Troy Garaway of the Party’s Human Services Department.

Some of the clothing, rain boots and other items that were distributed.

In picture from left are Ms. Eslene Shockley and Ms. Yvonne Harewood-Benn.

Global Poverty is the Real Enemy

More than a fifth of the world’s 6.2 billion people live on or in poverty, says the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its annual survey of global health.

"Poverty is the world’s deadliest enemy," says WHO Director General. "Vast numbers of people of all ages are suffering and dying for want of safe water, adequate sanitation and basic health care and at this stage of mankind’s development it is totally unacceptable".

Today life expectancy in the developed countries is 76.78 but in Uganda it is 43 and it is decreasing. It is also falling in four other African countries: Ivory Coast, the Central African Republic, Congo and Zambia.

The gap between the richest and poorest countries have widened further with a life expectancy of 79 in the most developed compared to 42 in the poorest African states. At the moment, life expectancy is under 60 in at least 45 countries, according to the WHO.

The widening gap is also evident in child health. For while overall deaths of children under five have fallen from 215 per 1000 live births in 1970-1972 to 87 today, this conceals major differences. The death rate among children under five in developing countries is around six per 1000 live births but in 16 developing countries it is 200. A similar picture is evident for infant mortality (deaths of children under one year) with a rate of 4.8 per 1000 live births for the richest countries and 161 for the poorest.

Growing inequity is literally a matter of life and death for millions of people, since the poor pay the price of social inequality with their lives. A significant cause of child deaths is malnutrition, although it is frequently unrecognised, says the report.

In 2010 almost a third of the world’s children under five were under weight for their age. The report estimates that micronutrient malnutrition - lack of vitamins and minerals affect over two billion people worldwide and especially children. For example, iodine deficiency is a public health problem in 118 countries as a result of which over 50,000 children are still-born each year and a further 140,000 are born mentally retarded, stunted, deaf-mute or paralysed. A quarter of all children under five in developing countries are at risk from vitamin A deficiency which causes blindness.

While immunisation campaigns worldwide have reduced the number of children dying from vaccine-preventable diseases, some 3.4 million still die each year from diseases such as measles, neonatal tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and diphtheria. In the developing countries, some 15 million children under five die each year from causes which could be prevented at a very low cost. Acute respiratory infections such as pneumonia kill more than six million children a year, that is, one every eight seconds, and they are a leading cause of disability.

Many of these deaths could be avoided by a short course of low cost antibiotics. Diarrhoeal diseases caused by unsafe water, poor sanitation and poor food handling practices kill around four million children under five every year.

There are estimated to be over 2.3 billion episodes of childhood diarrhoea a year, and many causes of deaths could be prevented by using cheap rehydration salts. The average cost is as cheap as one U.S dollar per treatment.

We in Guyana should reflect seriously on these dismal statistics and ponder on the reason for the present global state, but more importantly, what is the solution?
Exciting things in store for Indigenous People

On the 20th June, Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs, Ms. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, visited the community of Orealla. Located on the Corentyne River, Orealla or Orealla Mission can be found approximately 50 miles South of Crabwood Creek on the Corentyne Coast, in the East Berbice-Corentyne Region. Speaking to residents, Minister Garrido-Lowe who is responsible for the welfare of women, children and youths, noted that there are a number of exciting things in store for Indigenous People over the next five years.

Women empowerment and youth development are among the priorities of the Ministry, and it will be strongly supporting the preservation of Amerindian culture through fashion design, cookery, craft, songs, poetry and dance.

Among the sport disciplines, football and volleyball are strong points among Orealla youths. The community can expect significant support in this regard, since the Ministry will be developing a plan which will see qualified Indigenous youths participating both nationally and internationally.

The women’s group will also be supported in the area of agro-processing, where they would be able to make full use of their pineapples, pears, oranges, mangoes and papaws.

Already, several women in the community have benefited from the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) Development and Building Alternative Livelihoods for Vulnerable Groups’ project, under the Small Business loans, through the Ministry of Business, where they received a $300,000 grant to assist them in starting up their businesses.

Orealla is a very serene community. On a normal weekday, the children would go to school, while the men would work on their farms, and cut lumber, and the women would assist in farming and household chores.

Children of secondary age attend either the Line Path or Skeldon Secondary Schools as there is no such institution in the villages due to their small population.

Orealla is an Arawak word which means "white chalk", and seems to have acquired its name from the surrounding chalk hills. Orealla was at one time inhabited mainly by the Arawaks and Warraus with some Caribs, but at present, Wapishanas and Macushis can also be found there.
Inauguration of Guyana’s 8th Executive President

Guyanese celebrated the 49th Independence Anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana with pomp and pride. They came out in their numbers at the Guyana National Stadium on Tuesday 26th May 2015 to witness the inauguration of the 8th Executive President, H.E. David Arthur Granger. They braved the rainy weather and waited hours in traffic on the East Bank Public Road to be a part of this great event. As they converged at the National Stadium, which was filled to capacity, there were many bright, smiling faces that could be seen among the thousands gathered there. There were also many special invitees and dignitaries in attendance. The event was filled with cultural performances, singing and dancing.

After the arrival of the Prime Minister, Hon. Moses Nagamootoo and His Excellency, President David A. Granger, the Guard of Honour was inspected and over 500 dancers who were part of a display by the Department of Culture, Youth and Sport of the Ministry of Education entertained the crowd.

President within the Ministry of Communities, Ms. Dawn Hastings said a prayer in the Akawaio language after which President David Granger was officially inaugurated by the First People of Guyana. Granger stood on a podium as three dancers circled him after which a golden key was pinned on him by Ms. Hastings, which symbolised that he was inaugurated as the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

Guyana’s first Foreign Minister after Independence in 1966, Sir Shridath Rampal, addressed the crowd and offered congratulations to the new government. He said that unity needed to be the credo and ethic of governance.

President David Granger in his address promised not to fail the people of Guyana, he said, “You did not let me down and I will not let you down.” The President reminded all Guyanese of the important role they play in the well-being of the country.

Mr. Vic Persaud, Protocol Officer in the Ministry of the Presidency announced the names of the national awardees for 2015. The curtains came down on this spectacular event with a brilliant fireworks display.

Obituaries

Christopher Adams - Born 15th June 1961; Died 11th May 2015.

Christopher Adams, former security of the PNCR Secretariat, Congress Place, died on Monday 11th May 2015 at the Georgetown Public Hospital after a period of illness. His funeral service took place on Monday 18th May 2015 at the Crematorium in the Le Repentir Cemetery.

Know Your RIGHTS

Prescriptive Title

If a person has been in sole, uninterrupted possession of land for more than 12 (twelve) years he/she becomes the "de facto" owner and is, therefore, entitled to apply to the Commissioner of Title (commonly called "the Land Court Judge") for a Declaration of Prescriptive Title of the land on proof of the facts to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Title. Procedure to obtain declaration of title:

(a) The applicant must first obtain a plan done a Surveyor of the land.

(b) Thereafter, the applicant will apply by way of petition supported by affidavit(s) to the Land Court Judge. This petition is filed in the Registry of the High Court.

(c) Notice of the intended application must be advertised in three consecutive publications of the Official Gazette as well as the newspapers as directed.

(d) Written notice of the intended application must be served on or mailed to the neighbouring proprietors by registered mail within seven days after the first publication of notice.

(e) Any person intending to oppose the application is required to file a notice within one month after the publication of the notice.

When all of these procedures are completed, the matter is set down for hearing. After the hearing, the court may grant the applicant title by virtue of the fact of his/her occupation of the land for the 12 (twelve) years or more without the objection, consent or permission of the owner. After an order of Prescriptive Title is obtained, the applicant may apply to the registrar for a transport/title based on the order. If the application is opposed, the matter is treated as a defended matter and set down for trial.

Know Your RIGHTS!