Recently, one of Guyana’s most outstanding and distinguished legal minds felt constrained to publically dismiss President Donald Ramotar’s claim to have determined that legislation properly passed by the National Assembly was unconstitutional.

The assertion by President Ramotar is in keeping with the PPP behavior as revealed by the unfolding story on the abuse of national resources by a small clique of lawbreakers on behalf of and for the benefit of the PPP/C Government and its cronies. At the heart of this political abuse and misuse of resources is the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Limited (NICIL). This entity was established by the Parliament to manage the resources and the financial assets such as stocks and shares of entities privatized by the state. The PPP/C Government has used that legislation to do two things that are inconsistent with the spirit of the legislation and unconstitutional.

More specifically they bypassed the powers of the National Assembly (NA) and use NICIL as a second Treasury and secretly siphon off national resources for the benefit of persons known and unknown. The resources disposed of in this way include Pradoville 1 and 2, land formerly belonging to the state including those held by Guyuco. It also includes providing state resources to such persons on terms close to grants or more generous than commercial terms. During the course of a long running and uncompleted case on libel against Mr. Freddie Kissoon, the Government spokesman was unable to justify how 99.5% of the lands handed out by NICIL were allocated to non-Africans and that in spite of the law; persons were being allocated state lands without reference to any transparent criteria or mechanism.

NICIL was also at the centre of the storm over the Amaila hydroelectric project. Nowhere in the world can one easily point to so many major projects that have been started with: no feasibility studies, the absence of arrangements for the employment of locals, no proper (or illegal) tender arrangements, too much debt compared with equity, misrepresentation of the exact financing including the state’s input. In the case of the road leading to the Amaila site, Mr. Winston Brassington and NICIL put out tender documents with specifications that were so flawed that a Trinidad and Tobago firm had to be called in to review and rewrite it when ‘Fip’ Motilall’s enterprise failed to honour their obligations, including the deadline for completion. The road which was supposed to be completed by the end of 2011 has yet to be completed (20 months later). Not surprising, the cost of construction has more than doubled from US$15.4mn to over US$30mn and running. Along the way, NICIL’s carelessness allowed a performance bond, against which the state was to secure some redress from the original contractor, to lapse. Over US$1.5mn was, therefore, lost.

NICIL, in whose hands the Minister of Finance and the Cabinet have placed a massive quantity of money, has proved to have strengths but not in finance. Among these is the abuse of Parliamentary Opposition for raising questions on NICIL operations and, giving the public false information on the obligations and operations of NICIL itself. For all the assumed expertise of these officers they have presided over embarrassing developments in the entities for which they have responsibility. Mr. Brassington’s exchanges, explanations and reports especially those with Mr. Christopher Ram, point to an officer (and probably his team also) completely out of their depth failing to consult with those who are experienced and trained in the relevant technical areas such as civil engineering, project management and economics. They have been committing resources in what could only be described as frequently reckless.

There are few places in the world where such massive amounts of resources are put in the hands of so few officers and persons so little equipped to manage them. Nowhere! We Shall Not Be Bullied

**Timehri North Residents Protest**

See story on Page 7

**NICIL is a rogue corporation**

“The NICIL is a rogue corporation; we cannot tolerate this sort of behavior in which state funds, the people’s money are being dispersed without accountability. NICIL has to be stopped in its tracks” - Opposition Leader, Hon. Brigadier David Granger.
One foot in the grave, one foot out

By Malika N. Ramsey

Old people in Guyana used to say "when yuh pregnant, yuh got one foot in the grave and the other one out." As we evolved and embraced modernity many Guyanese women ignored that saying as just another Old wives tale. But it is 2013, and Guyanese women are forced to face the realization that there just might be some truth to that saying.

When a woman becomes pregnant it should be a time of great joy, but unfortunately in Guyana the relatives and friends of the expectant mother exist in a state of grave anxiety and fear until the baby is delivered, and mother and baby are deemed alive and well. This generally applies to families of women who cannot afford access to the high priced Private Hospital system.

This article will not deal with statistics just the facts - the sad fact is that within CARICOM Guyana's maternity mortality rate is second only to Haiti. Ninety percent of all pregnancies are considered normal, but it is the ten percent high risk pregnancies that is cause for concern. Several, very young women have died during labour and delivery: Samantha Bruce, 17 and Chitrwattie Ramjiwan, 20 died during delivery in May 2012; Omadara Anthony, 22 died in August 2012 and Kaimattie Sookram died in October 2012, these are but a few of the reported deaths.

In June of this year I met a husband who was observing his 20th birthday while grieving for his wife and child (he had buried both of them the previous day). How did our paths cross?

"We have all got to live together, we have got to move amongst one another and we have got to share with one another the experience and learning that each of us might have acquired over the years. We cannot develop the coast separately from the interior." – L.F.S. Burnham

On Tuesday 11th June 2013, I was the scribe for a meeting where the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. David Granger was visited by the husband and relatives of the deceased, Luan Rodney. According to reports the 28 year old woman and her baby died on Tuesday 4th June 2013 at the Georgetown Hospital after complications during child’s birth. It is alleged that Luan Rodney was administered a drug that required supervision, but was left unsupervised.

Nigel Rodney told the Opposition Leader that his family was calling for a thorough investigation into his wife’s death. Like so many other families with similar experiences, Rodney called for a formal inquiry; a process which he believes would help bring to an end the high prevalence of maternity deaths at the Georgetown Hospital.

It is an unfortunate reality that the Rodney mother/baby saga is not an isolated incident. According to published reports by July 2013, there were already 10 recorded maternity deaths. In that same period, two Obstetricians were suspended from the public hospital system, yet the health authorities are reluctant to admit that there is a problem. We need to stop burying our heads in the sand and acknowledge that we have a problem. We need to increase the number of trained personnel in Gynecology and Obstetrics. We need more trained Midwives and persons with a specialist capacity in Labour and delivery services. We need more pre-natal education and pre-natal care nationwide. We need to remove the spectre of death and put the joy back into child-birth.
An unstable, unsafe and unhappy situation

The People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) must take full responsibility for the current wave of criminal violence, social unrest and an impending constitutional crisis in Guyana. The violence and unrest have occurred largely because of the PPP/C’s chronic mismanagement of public security. Social unrest has been triggered by failures in public works, public health and public schools. The constitutional crisis is arising out of the Executive attitude to the decisions of the Legislature.

Public security and human safety are deteriorating, as recent Guyana Police Force statistics confirm. The PPP/C must bear responsibility for the 10 per cent increase in the number of armed robberies involving the use of firearms and the six per cent increase in serious crimes at the end of August.

The rise in crime is the direct result of the PPP/C’s failure to implement the UK £4.9M Security Sector Reform Action Plan, the National Drug Strategy Master Plan and the recommendations of the Disciplined Forces Commission. The PPP/C has failed to recruit, retrain, re-equip and reform the Police Force and provide it with adequate aviation and maritime assets.

The public education system is plagued by problems. Many children were unable to start classes on the first day of the new school term. Public protests at La Parfaite Harmonie, Moblissa, Port Kaituma, St Agnes and elsewhere have called attention to the poor preparations made for the new academic year.

The failure of the public health system has resulted in the death of a child from diarrhea at Masakenari, a Wai Wai village in the Rupununi Region. That death is a reminder of the still uninvestigated deaths of ten other children from gastro enteritis earlier this year in the Barima-Waini Region.

The PPP/C Executive, in light of its attitude over the past 20 months, seems bent on precipitating a collision with the Legislature. The President, as early as June 2012, uttered prejudicial remarks with regard to his preparedness to assent to bills and act on resolutions of the National Assembly. The Leader of the Opposition has now written to the Clerk on this matter. The Speaker has also written to the President in an attempt to avert a grave constitutional crisis.

The PPP/C administration continues to delude itself into thinking that it can impose an obsolete, over-centralised model of governance and direct management of local communities. This is exemplified by the central government’s arrogant attitude towards the National Assembly and its atrocious treatment of municipalities, regional democratic councils and neighbourhood democratic councils.

The PPP/C, evidently, has underestimated the consequences of its policies over the past 20 years. It seems not to understand that an unprecedented number of people in this country are now living in slums, squatter settlements, shantytowns and depressed villages. The poorest people - particularly the unemployed youth - and the poorest parts of the country are generally badly served by poor security and poor public services. It is a result of its misguided policies and misplaced priorities that the administration has created an unacceptably unstable, unsafe and unhappy situation in the country today.

DATELINE Georgetown

Georgetown District to the rescue

The perimeter fence of the Archer Senior Citizens Home on Durban Street was recently repainted. The fence which was badly in need of a face-lift was rehabilitated by executive members of the Georgetown District of the People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR). A few Sundays ago the executive members led by District Chairman, Ms. Volda Lawrence, MP, cleaned and repainted the fence.

Congress Place get sports gear

West Indian Sports Complex, a sporting goods store located at Lot 47 Robb Street Lacytown has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of sporting equipment to the People’s National Congress Reform. The equipment was handed over by the Proprietor, Mr. Feroze Khan to representatives of the Party Secretariat at Congress Place, Sophia. New Nation has learned that the equipment will be used to start a boxing gym and provide recreational facilities for the youths of Sophia and the surrounding communities.

Mr. Feroze Khan (center) making the presentation to Mr. Mark Archer (third from right)
Cubana Air Disaster - Remembered

“They died because there are some in this World, and more particularly in this hemisphere, who would not accept the right of a people to fashion their own destinies and to dictate their own goals.” - L.F.S. Burnham

The 6th of October 2013 marks the 37th Anniversary of the dastardly act of terrorism which resulted in the Cuban Air Disaster.

The People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR) solemnly remembers those who died 37 years ago aboard Cubana Flight 455, which left Guyana for the Republic of Cuba via Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica. On the 6th October 1976, seventy-eight (78) persons including eleven (11) Guyanese students were murdered by anti-Cuban terrorists when the aircraft was destroyed by a bomb.

The PNCR will never forget this cowardly and dastardly act perpetrated on the Cuban, North Korean and Guyanese passengers of Cuban Flight 455. The PNCR calls for those who were responsible for this criminal act to be brought to justice. The Party on this somber occasion, affirm our solidarity with the people of Cuba with whom we have shared a great friendship and fraternal bond.

The PNCR calls on the Government of Guyana to formally memorialize those who died on that day by erecting a permanent monument to the memory of the Cuban Air Disaster.

On this infamous day we call on all Guyanese to remember our brothers and sisters who died 37 years ago; Jacqueline Williams, Ann Nelson, Rawle Thomas, Raymond Persaud, Seshnarine Kumar, Sabrina Harrypaul, Margaret Bradshaw, Rita Thomas, Violet Thomas, Eric Norton, and Gordon M. Sobha.

Raymond Persaud, Seshnarine Kumar, Eric Norton, Rawle Thomas, Ann Nelson and Jacqueline Williams were on their way to Cuba to pursue training in medicine.

Margaret Bradshaw was the wife of the Consular Officer at the Guyana Embassy in Havana, Cuba. She left not only a husband, but a two-month old child, who never knew her. Rita Thomas and Violet Thomas were proceeding to Canada, as was also Sabrina Harrypaul via Jamaica.

59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - South Africa

Held under the theme, "Effective Solutions to Commonwealth Development Challenges", the 59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held from the 29th August - 6th September 2013 at the Sandton Convention Center in South Africa. Ms. Amna Ally, MP, and Parliamentary Chief Whip for A Partnership for National Unity, was part of a three person delegation that represented Guyana at this conference.

The ten day conference examined a variety of issues related to the work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference which took place in tandem with the CPA conference also elected new leadership. The Honourable Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament was elected Chairperson of the CWP. Ms. Kadaga replaces Hon. Alix Boyd-Knights of Dominica who served as Chairperson for three years. Ms. Kadaga will serve as Chairperson for the period 2013 - 2015.

The Commonwealth Women’s Parliamentary Association was founded in 1989 in recognition of the important role of women to work towards mainstreaming gender considerations in all activities and programmes of the Commonwealth.

Guyana’s delegation comprised, Ms. Amna Ally, MP and Parliamentary Opposition Chief Whip; Ms. Gail Teixeira, MP and Government Chief Whip; and Ms. Hermina Gilgeors from the Parliament Office who served as Secretary to the delegation.

International Literacy Day

I am happy to greet all Guyanese on the occasion of International Literacy Day on 8th September 2013.

Literacy is a human right. The Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana declares, at Article 27 (1), “Every citizen has the right to free education from nursery to university as well as non-formal programmes of the Commonwealth.”

I am happy to greet all Guyanese on the occasion of International Literacy Day on 8th September 2013.

Literacy is at the heart of basic education for all Guyanese. Educational opportunities, equally, depend on literacy. It is the foundation for lifelong learning, a tool for personal empowerment, an instrument for human development and a means for achieving a good life.

International Literacy Day 2013 is dedicated to emphasizing the need to realize “basic literacy skills for all” and to equip everyone with more advanced literacy skills as part of lifelong learning. We encourage all Guyanese to observe this significant occasion by reading some item of literature and by presenting a gift of a book to at least one child.

59th CPA Conference - South Africa

Opposition Chief Whip, Ms. Amna Ally, MP at the 59th CPA Conference in South Africa.
APNU discusses the way forward with overseas-based Guyanese

Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Brigadier David Granger met with a group of overseas-based Guyanese in New York to discuss the way forward for the country. The group included well-known academic and monetary economist Tarron Khemraj, Malcolm Harripaul, Rab Mukraj and Dr Asquith Rose. APNU’s team included Shadow Minister for Public Works, Mr. Joseph Harmon, MP.

The two sides examined the current economic, political and social situation in Guyana and concluded that a broad ‘pro-Guyana’ approach was needed to stimulate movement in Guyana and concluded that a broad ‘pro-Guyana’ approach was needed to stimulate movement.

In this picture from left to right are Rab Mukraj, Dr. Asquith Rose, Dr. Tarron Khemraj, Hon. Brigadier David Granger and Mr. Joseph Harmon, MP.

Granger meets military veterans in New York

Leader of the People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR) and Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Brigadier David Granger met with former members of the Guyana Defence Force. Veterans expressed concern about the challenges which some of their former comrades-in-arms in Guyana faced. They were concerned particularly with those who required special attention and medication.

Brigadier Granger shared their concern and reminded them that he had drafted a 10-point plan to improve the lives of ex-soldiers over 14 years ago. The plan, which had been presented to the Government, included, among other things, the establishment of a National Veterans Commission and a Veterans Administration Department in the Guyana Defence Force.

Brigadier Granger, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Harmon, thanked the President of the XGDF Association, Ms Cheryl Tappin for her invitation to meet his former colleagues. He lauded the veterans on their resolve and resilience in maintaining a vibrant organization in New York for over two decades.

PNCR Leader commends North American Region

Leader of the People’s National Congress Reform, Brigadier David Granger has commended the Party’s North American Region (NAR) for its continuous support and its commitment to human development in their homeland.

Brigadier Granger, on a recent visit to New York, held meetings with the Regional Executive Committee and the general membership. He received reports from representatives of the states of Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York and Canada and discussed plans for the forthcoming local government elections. He was accompanied by member of the Central Executive Committee and National Assembly, Mr. Joseph Harmon, MP.

Brigadier Granger reminded members that half of all Guyanese seemed to live in North America and the other half in South America. The two halves needed to work together for the whole. He thanked persons who established non-political, non-governamental organisations for providing succor and support for those in need in their homeland.

NAR - Plan of Action for Regional Development

The executive committee of the North America Region (NAR) of the People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR) recently met in Brooklyn, New York and embraced a plan of action for regional development. The North American Region will undertake a series of projects aimed at rebuilding, reorganizing and reorganizing. Regional Chairman of NAR, Mr. Ovid Morrison told New Nation that the Region will soon embark on a series of major economic ventures and fundraising events, with the goal of acquiring fixed assets. The Chairman said that the region had agreed to improve its political activism in the various North American communities where members reside. He said that the North American Region of the Party would embrace the tasks given by Party Leader, Brigadier David Granger to increase their membership and improve the region’s relationship with the various North American communities.

Brigadier Granger in his address to the last General Council of the Party presented a plan of action for the rebuilding of all of the Party regions; tasking then to rebuild, recruit and reorganize. Mr. Morrison said that NAR would be looking at long term economic programmes aimed at putting the region on a sound financial footing so that it can perform various service functions and fulfill its political mandate.
This week with Robert McGregor

SNORING

Snoring, like all other sounds is caused by vibrations that cause particles in the air to form a sound. For example, when we speak, our vocal cords vibrate to form our voice. When our stomach growls (borboryg- mus), our stomach and intestines vibrate as air and food move through them. While we breathe, blood vessel disease. More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use than by, illegal drug use, alcohol abuse, motor vehicle injuries, suicides and murders combined. Smoking causes an estimated 90% of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80% of all lung cancer deaths in women. A large percentage of deaths from chronic obstructive lung disease are caused by smoking. It is estimated that every year 100,000 people will kill half of all people who continue to smoke. A smoker who does not quit loses on average 10 years of their life. Smoking increases the risk of heart attack 2-6 times; smokers are 1.5-2 times more likely to have a stroke. Smokers on average are more stressed than non-smokers. Smoking causes premature skin ageing and smokers are more likely to lose their teeth.

Benefits if you quit:
There are enormous benefits of quitting no matter your age. Once you quit smoking, beneficial health changes take place. Your heart rate reduces. The carbon monoxide level in your blood reduces dramatically. Circulation improves, exercise is easier, and lung function improves. Coughing and shortness of breath decreases. After one year of quitting your risk of coronary heart disease is halved compared to if you continued to smoke. After five years your risk of cancer of the mouth, throat and esophagus decreases and your risk of a stroke is dramatically reduced. After ten years your risk of lung cancer falls to about half that of a smoker and your risk of cancer of the bladder, kidney and pancreas also decreases. After fifteen years your risk of coronary heart disease and risk of death falls to about the same as someone who never smoked.

STOP SMOKING - IT IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH!

ELECTIONS CORNER

Get Registered

The Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) started the 5th cycle of continuous registration on the 2nd September 2013 in its 27 permanent GECOM Registration Offices located in all of Guyana's ten Administrative Regions. This exercise will conclude on the 23rd November 2013. We urge you to use this opportunity to get registered. If you are not registered then you are required to visit the GECOM Registration Office and must have in your possession the following source documents: Original Birth Certificate or a valid Guyana Passport; Original Marriage Certificate (and original birth cer- tificate) - in the event your name was changed by way of marriage; Original Deed Poll and original Birth Certificate- in case of any change of name by Deed Poll; Original Naturalization Certificate and original Birth Certificate/ Valid Passport- in the case of nat- uralization.

It is the civic duty and legal responsibility of all Guyanese who will meet the eligibility require- ments to get registered during this cycle of continuous registration. By so doing, they would be ensur- ing that they are (1) issued National Identification Cards and (2) be included on the official list of electors for future elections, if they meet the eligibility criteria. Anyone who will be 14 years old or older by 31st December 2013 and is a Guyanese citizen by birth, descent, naturalization, or is a citizen from a Commonwealth country living in Guyana for one year or more, is eligible for registration.

Your Rights as a Voter:
As a registered voter, you have certain rights, including: To vote as your conscience tells you; To attend political meetings and cam- paign rallies; To know the various political parties, their candidates, and their stance on important local and national issues; to expect an orderly election free from fear, violence and intimidation.

GET REGISTERED TO VOTE NOW!
**REGIONAL ROUND-UP**

**Ituni Residents block road**

Residents blocking the main access road linking Linden with Kwakwani.

Recently Residents of Upper Demerara Region, Region No. 10 blocked the main access road linking Linden with Kwakwani. The protest lasted for four day. Residents placed huge logs across the road in the vicinity of Ituni to draw attention to the deplorable condition of the 36 mile roadway. According to residents, the road has been in a state of disrepair for more than two years. Chairman of the Regional Democratic Council, Mr. Sharma Solomon said that the region had requested funds to do repairs to several local roads including the Linden-Kwakwani road, but the funds were denied. The Linden-Kwakwani access road is just one of several roadways throughout the country that are in dire need of repair. Because of the poor road conditions on the Linden-Kwakwani road, prices of essential commodities have been driven sky-high, and this has negatively impacted the quality of life of residents of the logging and mining communities in the Upper Demerara - Upper Berbice Region.

**Timehri North Residents Protest**

Residents are seen here protesting the Government’s plan to remove them from their homesteads.

With Chants of "we shall not be moved!" and "we aren't going anywhere", residents of Timehri North protested the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) Administration’s plan to remove them from their Homesteads, to facilitate the expansion of the Cheddie Jagan International Airport. Hundreds of persons who were locked out of a meeting hosted by Transport Minister Robeson Benn for a select group of residents picketed the meeting venue and called on the PPP/C Administration to stop playing games with their lives and deal with the community as a whole, (instead of hosting selective engagements). Timehri North with a population of over 2,000 residents, some 336 houses, 37 shops, 3 churches, 13 government buildings is located in an area of contention with the Government demanding that residents, many of whom have lived in the community for over 20 years to remove to make way for the new airport.

Residents told New Nation that they will not be forced out of their homes. Many residents are of the view that the Government intention is to forcibly remove them so that the lands could be resold to a few select applicants for the construction of Airport Hotel and other related commercial interests. The Community leader we spoke with told us that the PPP/C Administration was not an honest broker; they said there were never consulted and at any point during the planning or feasibility process and that no Social Impact Surveys were done. The residents are vowing to stand their ground come what may.

**Yarowkabra - Infrastructure Neglected**

Residents in Yarrow-Kabra, one of the oldest communities situated along the Linden/Soesdyke Highway, are fed-up and they are calling on the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) administration to put up or shut up. The resident claim that several promises have been made by the PPP/C, but so far nothing has been done. When New Nation visited the community the main road was in a deplorable state, and in dire need of repairs. The roadway which has been nicknamed "Seven Ponds Road" is littered with craters and pot-holes that make driving treacherous.

Yarowkabra is a rapidly developing area with a rising school-age population. However many of the children have to travel outside of the community to attend school. Some children fail to attend school because their parents cannot afford the transportation cost. Resident said that former President Bharrat Jagdeo had promised the community a Primary school but that promise was never fulfilled.

Medical facilities in the community are inadequate. There is a building that is meant to house a medical center but the staffing leaves much to be desired. The needs of the community require a facility that must be adequately staffed twenty-four hours a day. When residents get ill or are in need of emergency care during the night, they have to be taken to medical facilities outside of the community at great costs and sometimes risk of life. Transportation costs many times run from $6,000.00 to $10,000.00. There is no Doctor at the Yarowkabra health center, even though the community can boast of a Medical Doctor that was born there, who now practices at the Georgetown Public Hospital.

There is no dependable postal service in the area. This vital service like so many others have been neglected and residents feel that it is time that the PPP/C Administration make good on its promises and give the citizens of Yarowkabra the infrastructure and services that they deserve.

**Dreams Deferred**

"When I got this land was like a dream come true…now is a nightmare…” This was the sentiment of one of the residents of Five Miles, a community located just outside Bartica in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni Region at a meeting with A Partnership for National Unity Shadow Minister for Housing, Mr. Joseph Harmon MP, on Saturday 21st September 2013. At that meeting several residents complained that after paying the Ministry of Housing as much as $1.3 Million for house-lots in the Five Mile area they are unable to construct homes on the acquired lands, because of massive soil erosion due to poor site preparation and inadequate infrastructure development (drainage etc.).

Approximately 200 residents purchased house lots less than one year ago, but because of the conditions of the land, they are unable to fulfill their dream of home ownership. Several residents alleged that after voicing their complaints to the Ministry of Housing they were told that if they could come up with a further $500,000 to $600, 000 they could get alternative house lots; others alleged that they were told that lands would be made available to them in the Essequibo Island-West Demerara Region (Region 3) if they were prepared to move, or they could wait for another ten years when more land would be made available. Mr. Harmon listened to the residents and promised them that he would speak with the Minister of Housing on his return to Georgetown. He was accompanied on his trip to the Cuyuni-Mazaruni Region by Member of Parliament, Ms. Annette Ferguson and Mr. Ronald Backer from the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Gordon Bradford, Regional Chairman for Region No. 7 joined the team at Bartica.

"A Good Life For All Guyanese"
Tribute to Margaret Ackman-John, CCH

Margaret Ackman-John, CCH: Died 29th August 2013

The People's National Congress Reform bids farewell, pays tribute and salutes one of its exemplary founding members and former Assistant General Secretary, Margaret Ackman-John, CCH, as her contributions acknowledged, as her aspirations realized, as well as her efforts to build and strengthen the party. Margaret Ackman-John was among the group of militant women, such as Jane Phillips-Gay and others, who pledged to work relentlessly - with our Founder Leader, L.F.S. Burnham - to make the PNC an enduring institution. But that was not her debut into national politics. She was actively involved from the early 1950's with Jessie Burnham, Janet Jagan, and Margaret Ackman-John was one of the trail blazers who institutionalized the PNCWA - People's National Congress Women's Auxiliary - and served as the organization's General Secretary and later Second Vice-Chairman of the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement - WRCM (PNCWA's) successor in 1977. She was a role model for women leaders of our Party.

As a founding member, activist and someone who cared deeply about the improvement of the lives of the Guyanese People, Margaret Ackman-John was a leader in every sense, as she campaigned throughout Guyana during the difficult days of struggle when the Party was out of office in the late 1950's and early 1960's. She stood tall and strong and was a symbol of the Party. She was in the forefront of the demanding and oppressive era. Under the banner of the People's National Congress and its Women's Arm, Margaret Ackman-John was a steadfast and tireless fighter for the PNC, and worked tirelessly to free the Guyanese People from the bonds of colonial domination and oppression. At public meetings and rallies, Margaret was one of the more influential voices who could win hearts and minds to support the noble cause of the PNC.

Within the PNCWA, she organized members of the Women's Arm to raise funds for the Party. She ran the Women's Arm for Congresses and other events; and to implement the Welfare program of the Party at Senior Citizen homes and hospitals as well as to undertake welfare work in the community. She was a role model for the young generation, and an inspiration to the older generation. She shared her love and dedication with the PNCWA. Margaret Ackman-John was a role model for women leaders of our Party.

Margaret Ackman-John also represented the Party in Parliament as one of the first PNC women Legislators from 1969-1980, as Chief Parliamentary Whip from 1969-1973, and as Parliamentary Secretary and Prime Minister's Office of Prime Minister from 1973-1980. She was a role model for women Parliamentarians, who were impressed by her dignity, her discipline and her appropriate reason of style. She was awarded the Cacique Crown of Honor (CCH) in 1976 for her excellent service in the field of politics and national development.

The fact that the PNC has endured and is still militant today - 56 years after its formation - is testimony to the strong foundation laid by Margaret Ackman and other party stalwarts who are no longer with us today.

In her phase of retirement and failing health, she remained committed to the cause, to the extent of attending party events in the U.S.A. and most memorable, was her return to Guyana to attend our special Congress in 2003 for the election of our new Leader after the death of then Prime Minister, Hoyte. The Party and all its arms, Youth and Women, wish to record its deep appreciation of her services as a founding member, activist and someone who cared deeply about the improvement of the lives of the Guyanese People. We extend sincere condolences to her immediate family, relatives and friends, particularly, her daughter, Marva and her son, Keith.

Margaret Ackman-John, CCH was a true fighter, a true leader, Hugh Desmond Hoyte. She was a true fighter, a true leader, Hugh Desmond Hoyte. She was a true fighter, a true leader, Hugh Desmond Hoyte. She was a true fighter, a true leader, Hugh Desmond Hoyte.

Know Your RIGHTS

Registration of Births

The birth of every child born in Guyana must be registered within 21 days of the birth. Where the parents are married the father or mother is required to provide particulars to the registrar of births at the nearest registration center of the district in which the birth took place. The Registrar completes a registration form, which the parent then signs. If for any reason, neither the father nor the mother is able to register the birth, a nurse must register the birth. If you live in a remote area you do not have to go to a registration center but can send the particulars of the birth in writing to the registrar at the nearest registration center. This is usually the community health center.

Registration after 21 days: If the birth is not registered within 3 months of the baby being born or within 9 months or if you live in a remote area, you can go to a registrar and give the particulars for him/her to complete a registration form that you will then sign. However, if more than 12 months have passed since the baby was born the birth can only be registered with the authority of the Registrar General. The information which you must give to the registrar includes: when and where the birth took place; the names, sex, race, weight and length of the child; and details of the birth certificate. If the parents are married the registrar will want to know the names, race, age and education of the father.