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Guyana: The January 1969 Rupununi ‘Uprising’ recalled – 50 years later

By Dennis Nichols

Unprecedented! That was a word on the lips of Guyanese when, fifty years ago this Wednesday, January 2, the Rupununi region hit the news headline with a bang; in fact several bangs. They were gunshots, reverberating throughout the country, echoing from neighbouring Venezuela and across the Takutu into Brazil; shaking the complacency of many urban Guyanese to whom that sprawling locale was little more than an isolated adjunct to our coastal communities. When the dust had settled, literally, at least six persons lay dead in Lethem, including five police officers.

Secession! That was another word, this time on the lips of a handful of big-time cattle ranchers who envisaged the region as a state separate from the rest of the country – the Republic of the Rupununi/Essequibo Free State, complete with President in the person of one Valerie Hart. The 27 year-old had been a Member of Parliament, sitting with The United Force Party, which had enjoyed considerable success politically in the region.

The vast Rupununi district, over 22,000 square miles in area, was then home to three Amerindian tribes, and a small group of semi-white ranchers. The latter were descendants of Harry Melville, of white Scottish-Jamaican ancestry, Basil ‘Ben’ Hart, an American, and a few others who had settled there just before the beginning of the last century, and later. Valerie Hart was one such descendant.

Interruption, between and among the Melvilles, the Harts, Brazilian women, and native Wapishanas, subsequently produced a clan of relatively wealthy ‘mixed-blood’ ranchers who in the nineteen-sixties, may have seen themselves as privileged aristocrats (at least by Guyanese standards) disdaining interference from those they saw as outsiders, and the central government.

The events of January 2 to 4, 1969, are still partially veiled (and conflicted) even after five decades, so one has to proceed with prudence in such a brief and less-than-comprehensive reconstruction. Some information for this article has been culled from reports filed just days after the uprising, and from internet sources, including an historical article authored by David Granger in 2009.

Valerie Hart

Additionally, some specific incidents alleged to have occurred have been contested over the years, including reports of harassment, violence, and murder perpetrated on hundreds of Amerindian residents by Guyana’s armed forces during the quelling of the uprising, and the level of involvement by certain foreign governments. Allegations against the armed forces were denied by both the Burnham administration and the Guyana Defence Force. The reports which emerged during and after the incident, spoke of a plan hatched among the Hart-Melville clan and other ranchers, supported by some Amerindian inhabitants, to turn the Rupununi district into an independent state.

They quite likely also intended to have it annexed to Venezuela, whose military had assisted with a crash course in weapons-training to ranchers and their Amerindian employees the week leading up to the insurrection.

Our western neighbour was of course claiming the entire county of Essequibo, including the Rupununi, and it was reported that Valerie Hart had treasonously urged the Venezuelan government to assert its ‘rightful
claim’ to the region. One of the reasons for this secessionist move had been the alleged mistreatment and discrimination meted out to Amerindians there by the Burnham administration, and opposition to the demarcation of indigenous lands. Hart allegedly told Venezuelan authorities that Rupununi residents had also been attacked without provocation.

Raising these charges (especially with regard to the lands matter) the ranchers were able to gather support for their cause from a number of Amerindians, including those who subsequently travelled with some ranchers to Venezuela for a seven-day military training blitz in late December 1968. They returned to Guyana on Thursday, January 2, and lodged at the Harts’ Pirara Ranch, from which the abortive attempt at secession was launched.

Shortly before midday, Lethem, the region’s administrative township, came under heavy bazooka and automatic weapons fire from the ‘rebels’, centred mostly on the police station there manned by 12 officers and some civilian employees. Policemen rushed out of the building, and were gunned down. Five officers and one civilian were killed, and radio communication from the station to Georgetown was immediately disrupted. The township’s most senior police officer, who was at the District Commissioner’s office, was shot and killed there.

Other locations were attacked, including two police outposts at Annai and Good Hope, where officers were tied up and trucked away. In Lethem, residents were herded into the local abattoir, where they were held captive, while some were locked into their homes. The rebels then blocked the main airstrip before doing the same to four smaller others, even as machine-gun posts were set up at strategic positions.

Lethem and surrounding areas were thus virtually isolated from outside intervention. However, a grass strip at Manari, a few miles away, was left open, most likely for the rebels’ use with light aircraft. Despite radio communication being knocked out, news of the uprising had reached the capital, and by Thursday evening members of the Guyanese armed forces had begun arriving in the area via a Guyana Airways airlift which landed at Manari. By Friday morning there were enough troops and supplies for a major engagement.

It never happened, (although there were reports of a confrontation and injuries to Guyanese soldiers) because by the time the troops began to fan out the next day, the rebels had fled to neighbouring Brazil and Venezuela where some were granted asylum. Earlier, as the drama unfolded, hundreds of Amerindians had also fled, across the Takutu River, and sought refuge in the Brazilian town of Bom Fin. Others headed for the bush and hid there, while some sought higher ground.

Over the next 18 hours a three-phase operation was carried out, first to capture Lethem, then to secure rebel positions, and finally to restore central government authority to the district. It involved the deployment of three companies drawn from the Guyana Defence Force Second Battalion, and headed by Captains Desmond Roberts and Vernon Williams, and Lieutenant Joseph ‘Joe’ Singh. They freed captive residents and recovered the bodies of those killed.

By the evening of Saturday, January 5, all locations and buildings were said to have been secured and retaken, including the airstrips and savannahs, with little resistance, as the armed forces met several empty settlements. Ranch houses at Pirara, Good Hope, and Sunnyside were razed by local forces. At the Brazil border, Brazilian army officials had taken responsibility for security there, but refused to hand over rebel fugitives, even as refugees were urged to return home.

In the aftermath of the uprising, a number of mostly Amerindians were arrested by the police on suspicion of involvement in the rebellion. Twenty-two of them were brought to Georgetown to face trial; ten of whom were charged with the murder of the five policemen and two civilians. Charges were later dropped.

Some of the supposed political and social intrigue has been left out of this article, mainly because of unclear ‘facts’ and dissimilar interpretations. What I have written I believe has been generally accepted as close enough to what actually transpired over those three days in January, 50 years ago.

I end it with only a nominal tribute to those who died during this period of subversion and whose deaths have been clearly verified. They are police officers, Inspector Whittington Braithwaite, Sergeant Benedict Sukra, Constables James McKenzie, William Norton, and Kendall Michael, and civilian Victor Hernandez.
Other casualties which may not have been documented in a verifiable manner are also worthy of remembrance, and it is to all of them that this recollection is dedicated.

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The Guyana Institute of Historical Research – call for papers for June 2019 Conference

The Guyana Institute of Historical Research, based in Montrose, East Coast Demerara Guyana, will host its 12th Research Conference, on Saturday 29 June, 2019, and is inviting submission of abstracts and papers.

The conference theme is “Labour, military history and, migration.” The early registration fee is G$5,000 for those who register on/offline between December 2018 and 28 June 2019. The late registration fee: G$10,000.

Abstracts must be submitted by 14 June 2019, and early submission of abstracts will ensure that they are included in the Book of Abstracts.

Papers must be submitted by 22 June 2019, to facilitate photocopying for circulation to paid registered participants.

The committee will consider proposals on all aspects of the history of labour, military and migration and especially encourages submissions that reflect on this year’s theme; submissions that focus on other topics will also be entertained. Submissions of pre-organized panels and round-tables are strongly encouraged.

Panel, round-table, 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).

Round-table proposals must include a round-table title, a 300-word abstract summarizing the round-table’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, a 300-word abstract of the paper and a 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 chairman: Tota Mangar -totamangar@gmail.com
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For more information, contact the conference registrar, Hazel Woolford: hazelwoolford@gmail.com

Jeremy Peretz is the 2018 winner of the GIHR Journal Prize.

The Guyana Institute of Historical Research invites all interested researchers to submit articles to the GIHR Journal. A prize will be awarded in 2019, to one of the submissions. Article must be refereed.
Thank you.

Trinidadians blamed for Guyanese political crisis

By Dr Kumar Mahabir
The People’s National Congress (PNC)-led coalition government in Guyana has refused to resign after it was defeated in a no-confidence motion in Parliament on Friday December 21, 2018. As expected, the drowning party is grasping at straws to illegally survive another year before it sinks on its own in the 2020 general elections.

PNC Executive Member Aubrey Norton has accused People’s Progress Party (PPP) Opposition Leader Bharrat Jagdeo of bribing MP Charrandass Persaud to switch his no-confidence vote against his own government in favour of the PPP. Norton said Jagdeo had “colluded with forces in Trinidad and mobilised resources to bribe a sitting MP” (Guyana Chronicle 28/12/18). I would like to advise Jagdeo to sue Norton for defamation of character through slander and/or libel.

Norton must be compelled to provide the evidence in court to support his accusation, or face conviction by imprisonment or fine. It seems that Jagdeo has already been found guilty by Norton who
appears to be an investigator, policeman, attorney, juror, judge and executioner, all rolled into one. Norton’s accusation is being repeated by several Government ministers, including the Minister of Public Security Khemraj Ramjattan. This AFC member of the collation Government was on Guyana’s NCN TV on Sunday night turning darker with rage against Persaud.

**Ramjattan turning darker with rage**

Viewers were uncertain whether Ramjattan was speaking as a member of the coalition splinter Alliance for Change (AFC) or as Minister of Public Security because these roles must be held separate and distinct when in public office. By his verbal and body language, Ramjattan was clearly abusing his power as Minister of Public Security.

Here are excerpts of Ramjattan’s rant on TV: “We are now learning that there is absolutely a connection with bribery, of some big sum of money…. This thing was organised beautifully. All that will come out of the investigation going on …. We are going to go very far and deep into it and those who would’ve done that, will pay the penalty. We’ve already been doing investigations with the senior members of the Government.”

Alarming illegal threats indeed from a Minister of Public Security. Ramjattan should be forced to resign on the basis that police work should be left to the Commissioner of Police, Leslie James, not the Minister of Public Security whose duties should be purely administrative and managerial.

Those who wish to take Ramjattan to court to face charges for misbehaviour in public office should read the article “Governance of the Police: Independence, Accountability and Interference” by Philip C. Stenning. This article is based on a lecture delivered to the Law School at Flinders University in Australia in 2011. The article should be read with Ramjattan in mind who is attempting “to bring partisan political influence to bear on a police investigation ... to harass political opponents or dissidents” like Charrandass Persad who has the civil and human rights of free association and freedom of expression.

Ramjattan’s unlawful interference in police work Ramjattan has betrayed his promise that there will be “no political interference by the APNU+AFC government in the running of the Guyana Police Force.” Ramjattan made this promise personally to about 500 persons on Saturday September 5, 2015 at the Whim Community Centre Ground in Berbice. The unlawful interference with the work of the Guyana Police Force and the Police Service Commission (PSC) is not new to this coalition government. In October 18, 2017, President David Granger wrote to the PSC to halt the promotion of police officers. Additionally, Ramjattan said on the same NCN TV show that on that historic night of the no-confidence motion in Parliament, he offered Persaud police protection to go to his vehicle to drive home. But Persaud was told by a friend that “the police would kill you rass. You better take we own” transportation. As Minister of Public Security, Ramjattan should be ashamed to learn and publicise the fact that Guyanese do not trust the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Defence Force with their lives. As an Indo-Guyanese, Persaud had all the more reason to be afraid. Members of the coalition government such as Moses Nagamootoo, Dr Rupert Roopnaraine, Jaipaul Sharma and Hemraj Rajkumar, and their families, are more vulnerable than other citizens to be attacked by the PNC-led coalition trained and armed officers headed by retired Brigadier, President David Granger.

The books, *The Costs of Regime Survival: Racial Mobilization, Elite Domination and Control of the State in Guyana and Trinidad* by Percy Hintzen; *Domination and Power in Guyana: Study of the Police in a Third World Context* by George Danss; *Anatomy of Race Politics* by Reverend Seopaul Singh; and *Ethnic Conflict and Development* by Ralph Premdas; *GIHA Crime Report Indians Betrayed*, should be compulsory reading for Ramjattan. These publications document the long history of violence against Indians in Guyana which was unleashed by the tyrannical President, Forbes Burnham.
Charrandas Persaud: The Gandhi of Guyana

By Dr Kumar Mahabir

Love him or hate him, Guyanese Member of Parliament (MP) Charrandas Persaud had the courage to stand and swim against the political rip currents of the Essequibo River.

And for that extraordinary courage based on a conscience vote, he must be honoured, even idolised as the Mahatma Gandhi of Guyana. Already there are plans to name babies after him as well as streets in his native Berbice. A meme with his portrait on a champagne bottle has been created, and a song on the theme “Charrandas is a Hero”, produced by Rishaad Ishmael, is being shared on social media. On that historic day in Guyana (December 21, 2018), Charrandas voted against his own governing party for the opposition People’s Progress Party (PPP) led by Bharrat Jagdeo. MPs Jaipaul Sharma, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine and Sydney Allicock did not have that strength of character to take that leap. Charrandas’ one dissident vote changed the course of electoral history in Guyana by constitutionally toppled a government from power which is still stubbornly and illegally refusing to resign.

Charrandas’s single vote made history in Guyana and the Commonwealth Caribbean, except for the Turks and Caicos Islands. On his Facebook page, Trinidadian political scientist Dr Kirk Meighoo stated: “It has NEVER happened before.” (23/12/18). He added that the no-confidence-motion victory demonstrates strength in political democracies like Guyana. “For parliaments to work, our parliamentarians need to represent their constituencies, and not their party or race.” [A theory negating Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo’s belief (Kaieteur News 5/1/19)].

Meighoo went on to write that no one can accuse Charrandas of being racially motivated by voting for an Indian-dominated party. On every occasion for the past three years, Charrandas voted for the African-dominated party in Parliament, against his own conscience. Indeed, Charrandas worked at every level to electorally overthrow the ruling PPP from power and install an African-dominated coalition in government in 2015.

Charrandas risked his life for conscience

Charrandas knew that he could have been dead at the hands of hoodlums supporting the ruling People’s National Congress (PNC)-led coalition government headed by a retired brigadier, President David Granger. The PNC has a long bloody history of harassment, imprisonment, torture, violence and murder of political opponents.

Political opponents of the PNC such as Ohene Koama, Edward Dublin and Dr. Walter Rodney of the Working People’s Alliance (WPA) were all fatalities. Paradoxically, WPA members Dr. David Hinds, Dr. Roopnaraine and Tacuma Ogunseye have joined the current PNC-led coalition.

As an Indo-Guyanese, Charrandas and his family were more of a risk of being physically attacked than other citizens. In the publication entitled InTransit: Gangs and Criminal Networks in Guyana (2012),
human security researchers Taylor Owen and Alexandre Grisby wrote that “the fact that the Guyanese police are largely Afro-Guyanese added to the Indo-Guyanese distrust of the security forces and reinforced ethnic tensions” (page 18).

This independent research project produced in Geneva should be instructive to Minister of Public Security Khemraj Ramjattan. He as well as the families of other members of the coalition government such as Moses Nagamootoo, Dr Rupert Roopnaraine, Jaipaul Sharma and Hemraj Rajkumar are still not safer.

"Charrandas you gun dead tonight."

Charrandas said he has spent sleepless nights before me made his conscience vote. He spoke repeatedly about imminent death to reporters, saying: “My life may go, but you know what … I will die a happy person with a clear, God-damn conscience.”

He said Public Health Minister “Volda Lawrence was sitting in the cafeteria and said whoever crosses the floor, she will kill the person; throw them over the rail.” In the full glare of media cameras, Charrandas was being abused verbally and/or physically by Derek Basdeo and Government MP, Jermaine Figueira, who was seen “hitting me...and cussing me.” Government MP Jennifer Wade shouted: “Charrandas, you gun dead tonight” (St. Lucia Times 1/1/19).

In expectation of his likely murder, Charrandas had written a farewell letter to his son “encouraging him to be a good father.” In the event that “something happens to him, Persaud said he [had] written a letter detailing the reason for his action for which he has asked his secretary to make public” (Guyana Chronicle 22/12/18).

Charrandas said: “I knew that my life was in terrible danger... So I sought help [to leave Parliament building and the airport the next day]. I could not trust Khemraj Ramjattan and his police ...” (Kaieteur News 3/1/19).

As expected, the illegal PNC-led coalition government is out to get Charrandas by any means. Ramjattan and his co-conspirators are alleging that Charrandas is a Judas who was bribed to defect, has dual-citizenship, is a gambler (both only now “discovered”), breached airport security protocol, fled to Canada instead of Barbados, etc., etc. Whether found guilty or not, these dirt-digging and mudslinging tactics cannot stain the purity of character of Charrandas Persaud.

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High Court asked to quash no-confidence motion; says Charrandas Persaud was Canadian since 1998

Posted by: Denis Chabrol
The High Court was Friday asked to quash a no-confidence motion against the Guyana Government on the grounds that former government parliamentarian, Charrandas Persaud, who sided with the
opposition to pass the motion had falsely declared that he was a Guyanese citizen, but immigration records show that he has been a Canadian citizen since 1998.

In the complaint filed by Compton Herbert Reid, through Senior Counsel Rex McKay’s Chambers, Reid asked the High Court to suspend the Resolution that states the no-confidence motion was passed 33-32 on December 21, 2018 until the case is heard.

“The applicant makes an application for an order staying the enforcement of Resolution No 101 declared by the Clerk of the National Assembly to have been passed in the National Assembly on December 21st, 2018. A conservatory order, preserving the status quo ante that the government remains in office until the hearing and determination of the reliefs sought herein,” states court papers that were filed at the High Court Registry at 2:29 pm, one minute before closure.

**A date has to be fixed for the case to commence.**

The respondents are House Speaker Dr. Barton Scotland, Charrandas Persaud and Attorney General Basil Williams.

House Speaker, Dr. Barton Scotland on Thursday declined to reverse his ruling that the motion had been passed and instead said the issues challenging its validity should be settled by the Court.

AFC defector: Charrandas Persaud.

In the application, Reid also wants the High Court to declare that on April 7, 2015 Persaud was disqualified from being nominated a member of Guyana’s National Assembly and that his nomination “is invalid, null and void and of no legal effect”. Against this background, Reid states that contrary to Guyana’s constitution Persaud bears allegiance to a foreign power based on his oath of Canadian citizenship and he was not qualified to sit in Guyana’s National Assembly and vote.

Relying on evidence from Guyana’s immigration department and Canada’s immigration authorities, Reid states that Persaud’s latest Canadian passport was issued on October 25, 2017 and he has held valid Canadian passports since 1998. Other documents the applicant intends to rely on are an affidavit by the Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, Ewart Wray, Persaud’s statutory declaration and a nomination form, a letter from the Clerk of the National Assembly dated December 24, 2018, a certificate on Resolution Number 101 signed by the Clerk of the National Assembly and an affidavit of Canada-based Guyanese Attorney-at-Law, Selwyn Pieters.

The High Court is being asked to find that Persaud’s ‘Yes’ vote for the no-confidence motion is not valid and that indeed the count was 32 for and 32 against which did not amount to a majority of all the elected members of the National Assembly and that “the motion of no-confidence is null, void and of no legal effect to defeat the government on a vote of no-confidence” in keeping with Article 106 of the constitution.

**AG wants court to determine absolute majority in no-confidence vote**

By Staff Reporter - January 8, 2019 0515
Attorney General and Legal Affairs Minister Basil Williams Photo by Adrian Narine

ATTORNEY General and Legal Affairs Minister, Basil Williams has filed a Fixed Date Application challenging the passage of the no-confidence motion against the government on the basis that the opposition did not secure a majority as required by the Constitution.

He is therefore calling on the court to set aside or nullify the Speaker of the National Assembly’s ruling that the motion was carried. The application, by way of Case stated pursuant to Rule 61:03 of the
Civil Procedures Rules, was filed in the High Court on Monday with Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Barton Scotland and Leader of the Opposition, Bharrat Jagdeo, the mover of the motion, named as the respondents.

By way of his application, the attorney general is asking the court to determine whether the Speaker’s declaration that the no-confidence motion was carried by a majority in the National Assembly is unlawful, null and void on the basis that its contradicts Article 106 (6) of the Constitution of Guyana. Article 106 (6) reads: “The Cabinet including the President shall resign if the Government is defeated by the vote of a majority of all the elected members of the National Assembly on a vote of confidence.”

On December 21, 2018, the Speaker had declared that the opposition-sponsored motion was passed after 33 Members of Parliament voted in its favour and 32 against; however, some legal luminaries have since argued that the 33 votes did not constitute an absolute majority as required by the Constitution. As such, the attorney general is asking the court to determine if the motion of no-confidence was validly passed or whether the requisite majority of all the elected members of the National Assembly ought properly to be 34 votes.

**REMAIN IN OFFICE**

He is also seeking an order to allow for the President and all ministers of the government to remain in office on the basis that a majority vote was not duly carried in accordance with Article 106 (6) of the Constitution.

The government, through the attorney general, is therefore seeking an order setting aside or nullifying the Speaker’s ruling that the motion was carried, and another, staying the enforcement of Resolution 101.

A conservatory order preserving the status quo ante that the President and all ministers of the government remain in office until the hearing and determination of the questions is also being sought. “The Conservatory order is necessary to preserve the status quo ante as Article 106 (7) of the constitution requires that the President and all Ministers of the Government remain in office and hold elections within three (3) months. However, the period for the hearing and determination of the matter may expire before that time,” he explained while justifying the need for the order.

It was further explained that if the court grants the conservatory order it will preserve the status quo ante particularly in the relation to the time of three (3) months that was set in motion for the process of National Elections and the resignation of the President and other ministers of government.

“The stay of the enforcement of the resolution is necessary in order avoid the process being rendered nugatory and in all the circumstances the applicant is satisfied that there exist an arguable case on the questions in controversy with a realistic prospect of success on the part of the government,” he noted.

Article 106 (7) of the Constitution provides that “notwithstanding its defeat, the government shall remain in office and shall hold elections in three months, or such longer period as the National Assembly by resolution supported by not less than two-thirds of the votes of all the elected members of the National Assembly determine, and shall resign after the President takes the oath of office following the election.”

**34 VOTES REQUIRED**

In laying his grounds for the case, the attorney general alluded to the fact that the National Assembly has 65 members while arguing that mathematically, half of all the elected members of the current National Assembly would result in a fraction of 32.5.

“In the instant case as half of 65 results in the fraction of 32.5, that figure should then be rounded to the next whole number being 33 which would now represent half of the elected members, the majority thereby being a number greater than half means that ‘1’ ought to have been added to the whole number ‘33’ to calculate an absolute majority of 34,” he continued.

He maintained that with the total elected members of the National Assembly being 65 members, the majority half plus one or a vote of 34 or more members.
On December 21, 2018 when the motion was put to a vote, the attorney general contended that it was not validly passed by 34 or more of all the elected members of the House.

“In the circumstances the motion of no confidence is void and has no legal effect to defeat the government on a vote of no confidence in accordance with Article 106 (6) of the Constitution,” he stated. He noted that the Speaker’s ruling on January 3, 2019 reinforced the necessity for the Court to intervene by giving guidance to the National Assembly in the matter.

“It is in the interest of justice that the Court deals with this Application expeditiously having regard to the imminent consequences which flow from Article 106 (6) and (7) of the Constitution,” the attorney general stated while urging that the matter be dealt with expeditiously.

The matter will be heard on Tuesday January 15, 2019 before Chief Justice (ag) Roxane George-Wiltshire in the High Court. Also on Tuesday, the chief justice will hear another Fixed Date Application which is challenging the validity of the vote cast by Charrandass Persaud in the National Assembly on the basis that he breached the Constitution by having dual citizenship. That application was filed by Compton Herbert Reid, a farmer, through his attorney Rex McKay, S.C.

**Barbara Pilgrim replaces Charrandas Persaud as Member of Parliament**

Barbara Patricia Pilgrim, the new Member of Parliament who replaced Charrandas Persaud after his expulsion from his Alliance For Change (AFC) parliamentary seat due to his December 21, 2018, conscience vote. The MP is a former teacher, co-op officer and a community development officer. In the National Assembly, she represents Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne) on the basis of geographical representation. Pilgrim took the oath as a MP during the 112th sitting of the 11th Parliament.

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1. Women’s History magazine- $1,500 per annum
2. Lessons in Guyanese History -$1,600
5. GIHR Book marks $40.
1. I am confident that life for all Guyanese will continue to improve in 2019. Guyanese can expect, by the end of the new year, to live in a state with more secure borders; communities that are safer; an economy that is more resilient; a society that is more cohesive and public services that are more easily accessible.

2. “I had promised to provide money for the training of the Press Association. I’m committed to providing assistance to help you to publish the history of the Press Association and I’m also committed to assisting in strengthening one of the four pillars of journalism and the first is schooling.”

3. Ambassador Ishmael, who passed away today at the age of 70, last served as Guyana’s ambassador to Kuwait. He also served as Guyana’s Ambassador to the United States of America and Venezuela and, was also appointed the country’s Permanent Representative to the organization of American States (OAS).

4. The advantages of capital towns in these huge hinterland regions include the efficient delivery of public services, enhanced economic opportunities, improved infrastructure and heightened frontier security. Citizens now enjoy access to national news through the establishment of Regional Public Broadcasting Service stations at Aishalton, Bartica, Lethem, Mabaruma, Mahdia and Orealla.

5. Sir Fenton, who passed away earlier today in Barbados at the age of 89, was a distinguished Guyanese attorney who authored the book, ‘The Development of Land Law in British Guiana’.

6. He served as the country’s first Attorney General from 1961-1964 in the Legislative Assembly of British Guiana. He continued to serve in the Legislative Assembly until 1966. From 1966 to 1973, Sir Fenton served as a Member of Parliament.

7. The Government of Guyana and the Opposition of the National Assembly met today, Wednesday, January 9, to examine two main issues.

8. The first, of course, is the function of the National Assembly and the second is the function of the government.

9. Neither of these two important institutions, legislative branch and executive branch could be allowed to fail.

10. Public services have to be delivered, public order has to be maintained and therefore the two sides reached broad agreement on how these two institutions, the legislative branch and executive branch will continue to function.
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Twelfth Conference of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research at the Arthur Chung Conference Center,
Saturday, 29 June 2019

Theme: Labour, military history and, migration.

Dr. [ ] Mr. [ ] Mrs. [ ] Ms. [ ] Prof. [ ]

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Address ________________________________

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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: $ 5,000

Late Registration fee: $ 10,000

Cost of DVD: $5,000.

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Twelfth Annual Conference of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research in the Conference room of the National Library, Saturday 29 June 2019

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8. Requirements.

   • Please bring your tablecloth.
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   • 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.
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