A shining light has been extinguished with the passing of Dr. Cheddi Jagan, son of the soil and father of the Nation.

Dr. Jagan was, without any shadow of a doubt, one of the most honest political leaders of the 20th. century and, I dare say, in the history of mankind; one who stuck unwaveringly to his ideals and conscience, overcoming seemingly insurmountable hurdles along the way.

Cheddi Jagan was our own Bapu - yes, he was the Mahatma of this nation, and a champion of the poor in Guyana, the Caribbean and the world at large. An era has come to an end with his passing but we are fortunate indeed that he has left a rich legacy. Those who were around during his lifetime ought to be thankful. His absence, a great loss, will be felt more deeply by those like me who expect to remigrate - because when we do, he will not be around. Nevertheless we hope to derive solace from what is expected to be a continuation of the good work he has begun.

Cheddi Jagan will be sorely missed by a nation he has set on the road to prosperity. This son of the soil has certainly met all the qualifications to be called the Father of the Nation.

May God bless his soul and continue to look over the land he loved and served so well.

Abel Surendra Peters
Guyanese residing in the USA.