Gossip Influenced Surveys

by Janet Jagan

According to the Stabroek News report of September 24, 2008, "Guyana still ranks among the most corrupt countries slipping three places on the Transparency International 2008 Corruption Perception Index (CPI)." Guyana is listed as 126th in a survey of 180 countries and is the second lowest ranked Caribbean territory behind Haiti. The Transparency International is based in Germany. The CPI measures the perceived levels of corruption among public officials and politicians in countries, based on different expert and business surveys. Four surveys were used to determine Guyana's score, states the report in Stabroek News.

It seems that the key word in all of this is "perceived" corruption. This perception of corruption in Guyana can be traced to the media in this country which, to a large extent, is extremely hostile to the government and the governing party, the PPP. There can be no doubt that this so-called perception of corruption is not based on any accepted methodology, but on the most disgusting form of gossip and hate-mongering that can be found in Guyana’s newspapers, television and on the internet, where bloggers have a field day in expressing their malicious. It also exists in certain letter columns and commentaries by the most vicious and "cranky" writers.

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And what about the new Prime Minister of Barbados’ charges of corruption in the previous government? In Guyana, there has been a spate of charges against the courts on civil servants and private sector employees on corruption and heft of funds. Look at the almost daily publication by the government gets the blame for corruption by the German-based group that apparently is not looking very deeply into corruption in many countries including ours.

Where does Pakistan, for example, stand in the Transparency International survey? Its new President presented its new government’s anti-corruption bill. But the government has been accused of corruption by the World Bank's anti-corruption report, and the country’s rating in the CPI dropped from 126th to 131st.

In Malaysia and in Thailand, strong charges of corruption have been made and the made and the government has been forced to resign due to corruption-charges. Where are these countries listed? None released by the German-based Transparency International is "flawed." It appears that there has been a cover-up of the really corrupt countries.

One has only to look at the United States of America to see widespread corruption, especially arising out of the system known as "lobbying." Lobbying has promoted a system whereby certain private and commercial firms use their position to influence Congressmen and public servants to further the aims of powerful companies. This is done by various methods, including favours provided by such powerful companies and groups to Congressmen and women who sit in the House of Representatives and Senate, to do their bidding as regards legislation and other matters. Favours like trips including airfare, hotels and expense accounts are given out for support requested, as well as other high priced gifts.

Contracts to companies are awarded, particularly war contracts which can reach the billion dollar level. Companies like Halliburton, once led by the Vice President of the USA, receive billion dollar contracts arising out of the war in Iraq. So the USA would...
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And what about the new Prime Minister of Barbados' charges about corruption in the previous government?

In Guyana, there has been a spate of charges before the courts on civil servants and private sector employees on corruption and theft of funds. Look at the almost daily publication by private companies mostly, that "so and so" is no longer employed by that entity. Obviously something very wrong has been done by that person. Corruption exposed. That means that there has yet the government gets the blame for corruption by the German-based group that apparently is not looking very deeply into corruption in many countries including ours.

Where does Pakistan, for example, stand in the Transparency International survey? Its new President spent 11 years in jail for corruption, and charges of corruption were dropped after the assassination of his wife, the former Prime Minister Bhutto. Yet the President of Pakistan is considered among the most corrupt countries in the world, and has been on trial for having received bribes.

Janet Jagan common known as "Mr 105%" for his cuts in dirty deals.

In Colombia, the Supreme Court has acquitted the President of buying votes from members of Congress, and so, on it goes!

In South Africa, a complicated set of circumstances have arisen over the trial of corruption charges against the man who is expected to be the next President of the country. Is there or is there not, strong charges of corruption and where does South Africa rate in the survey?

In Malaysia and in Thailand, strong charges of corruption have been made and the contender for the President of Thailand has had to leave his country because of such charges? In Israel, the Prime Minister has been forced to resign due to corruption-charges. Where are these countries listed? None of these horrors exist in Guyana.

Head of the Guyana Presidential Secretariat Dr Roger Luncheon has declared that the information up of the really corrupt countries.

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Contracts to companies are awarded, particularly war contracts which can reach the billion dollar level. Companies like Halliburton, once led by the Vice President of the USA, receive billion dollar contracts arising out of the war in Iraq. So the USA would have to rank high in the "perceived" corruption, surely outweighing such "flawed" charges against Guyana.