

## MESSAGE FROM THE ACG-CANADA

April 25, 2009

Mr. Chairman, Comrades of The Association of Concerned Guyanese - New Jersey, Members of all other fraternal and supportive groups of the ruling People's Progressive Party of Guyana, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters, fellow Guyanese, Friends All:

As we gather here today to pay our profound respects and tributes to Comrade Janet Jagan, a great freedom fighter of Guyana and former President of the Republic of Guyana who passed away on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2009, let us **also** use this solemn occasion to celebrate the remarkable life of the greatest daughter of Guyana's soil.

Janet Jagan was the epitome of courage, selflessness and decency. She bore the brunt of imprisonment, confinement and verbal and physical abuse during her long struggle to liberate Guyana from British colonial rule, and again, during the dark era of 28 years of PNC dictatorship in Guyana.

In 1943, Janet Jagan left the highly developed and affluent United States where she was born to reside in then British Guiana. Guiana was then a colony of the British Empire and was being saddled under the burden of poverty, illiteracy and economic and political domination. Yet, she gave up her American citizenship for Guyana's citizenship. This is a profound demonstration of her true love, compassion and solidarity with the oppressed people of British Guiana.

Immediately upon her arrival in Guyana, she joined in the struggle, side by side of her late husband, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, 'the Father of the Nation', to fight for the liberation of Guyana from British colonial domination and exploitation.

In 1947, she, along with her husband, Dr. Jagan, co-founded the Political Affairs Committee which was the forerunner to the People's Progressive Party. In 1946, she also founded the Women's Political and Economic Organization which became the forerunner to the Women's Progressive Organization (WPO) – the Women's Arm of the PPP Party. Janet Jagan was also instrumental in forming and overseeing many organizations and groups aimed at promoting the well-being and development of all Guyanese women.

Janet Jagan was elected the First Female President of the Republic of Guyana in December 1997.

Today, thanks to the courage, determination and relentless struggles of both Dr. Cheddi Jagan and Mrs. Janet Jagan, Guyana is free and democratic. And, Guyana is well on her way to economic development and prosperity for all her peoples.

Comrades and Friends, Janet Jagan's contribution to the social, economic and political development of Guyana is unparalleled, unmatched and undeniable. Hence, her special place in Guyana's history and the hearts of the Guyanese people, will always be secured and guaranteed.

Long Live the Legacy of Janet Jagan!

Long Live the Memory of Janet Jagan and Cheddi Jagan!

Long Live the People's Progressive Party!

Long Live the People of Guyana!

Long Live the Republic of Guyana!