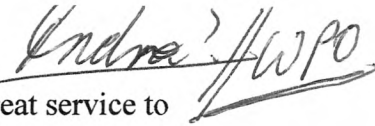


Tribute to JJ



Her Excellency Janet Jagan has passed on after more than five decades of great service to the people of Guyana.

Mrs Jagan took up residence in the then colony of British Guiana after her marriage to Dr. Cheddi Jagan in 1943.

The political activities and contributions of Janet and Cheddi have been so intertwined that Janet's own contributions have often been overshadowed by her very charismatic political icon husband.

Such a link needs to be considered in terms of the contributions which they jointly made as well as the numerous contributions and achievements of Mrs. Jagan herself.

Janet Jagan played a special role in the formation of the PAC in 1946 and the many actions which helped to light the torch of the popular movement for political independence.

When the Peoples Progressive Party was formed, Janet Jagan was elected as the first General Secretary and was indeed the driving force behind the Party's dynamic organizational efforts for more than 20 years.

She pioneered the formation of the Women's Political and Economic Organization in 1946 and the Women's Progressive Organization in 1953. She was a pioneer of the movement to improve the conditions of Guyanese women organizing them in their communities and at the national level for equal treatment and full human rights.

Janet Jagan's various contributions at the state level always reflected her deep concern for the improvement of the living conditions of the poor people in the country. She served at different times as a Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, Member of Parliament, Minister of Labor Health and Housing, Minister of Home Affairs, Prime Minister and President.

The side of the Janet Jagan that a lot of people did not know about is her love for people. She was a very humane and kind person who not only looked after her comrades especially those who were sick and elderly but also members of the public who needed help.

She was a very strong fighter who was not afraid to use her pen to defend her Party neither was she afraid to stand up for what she believed in. She was the Editor of Mirror and concluded the last copy of Thunder before her death. Her love for art and culture prompted her to establish the Castellani House where she encouraged artists to showcase their work.

Throughout her life she encouraged artists and would always buy their work as a form of encouragement. She did the same for writers, poets and other creative workers. She herself wrote a number of children story books as well as thousands of articles and editorial pieces.

Janet Jagan always maintained close links with the rank and file throughout her life and to her very last days she continued to make a sterling contribution to the Party work among the Guyanese masses.

She served Guyana well and has definitely made an indelible mark on the pages of Guyana's history book especially in relation to the work of the PPP and the WPO.

Janet Jagan's passing is a severe loss to the people of Guyana. But she will forever be present in our struggles through the great legacy she leaves with us of a magnificent life of great contributions for the freedom and prosperity of our country and its people.