

No hitting below the PPP promises to continue Jagan's

By EARL BOUSQUET
For Caribbean Week

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Prime Minister **Janet Jagan**, who has been selected as the ruling PPP/Civic alliance's Presidential candidate in the upcoming general elections, has publicly disclosed – for the first time – that her decision to accept the candidacy was based on the late President **Cheddi Jagan's** wishes that she “carry on if anything happens to me”.

“His desire that I should take over stems from the fact that after spending 54 years working and struggling together, I would understand what his vision and hopes for his people are,” she told a rally marking the official launching of her party's election campaign here recently, noting that “until now this fact was only known to my immediate family”.

According to the Prime Minister, she felt it was her “duty” to “carry on”.

Jagan recalled some of the traits of her late husband: “He was a great teacher...he was not happy with poverty.

“There have not been too many Cheddi Jagans in this world and Guyana had never before had such a role model.”

The PPP/Civic, much to the annoyance of opposition parties, has decided to make as much out of President Jagan's memory during the election campaign as his memories would allow to attract traditional votes.

Posters and photographs of the late president accompany portraits of the PPP/Civic's three presidential candidates, Jagan, President **Sam Hinds** (who is running for his old post of Prime Minister) and Finance Minister **Bharrat Jagdeo**, who is a candidate for Vice President.

And at every opportunity, the ruling alliance's achievements are accredited to his leadership, which his political heirs have pledged to continue.

The opposition is audibly and visibly upset about this approach, accusing the PPP/Civic of engaging in “jumbie politics” and claiming the present leaders have not been able to come up with their own ideas.

Speaking on the performance of the PPP/Civic during its first term, Jagan told *Caribbean Week*: “Hope was restored in Guyana...We have gone a long way to restoring stability and bringing peace and security back to Guyana. Fear is no more.”

Hinds, also spoke to *Caribbean Week*, saying that the “PPP/Civic is good for Guyana”.

He disclosed that the PPP/Civic has regrouped for the forthcoming elections: “We have come up with a leading team, a team led by Mrs. Jagan, a team of which I am proud to be a member.”

President Hinds said he had no



JANET JAGAN: says it's her duty to carry on.

regrets joining the alliance when he ran as President Jagan's running mate in 1992, and said he hoped Guyanese would put aside some traditional fears based on the Cold War politics of the past.

“It is time to throw away long-held assumptions and fears; let us work together and vote together as we recognise that our common needs, our common aspirations for common prosperity provide a sound basis for the growth of relationships of trust and confidence which our nation needs,” said the President.

Touching on the theme of inclusion and cohesion, President Hinds accused the government's detractors of “missing the bus”.

“We have tangibly demonstrated inclusion and national cohesion during this first term. And we were not blind to the difficulties in what we attempted as we consciously sought to bring to our Cabinet the fullest range of social experiences, sentiments and assumptions, fears and insecurities within our country,” he said.

He recalled the developments following the death of the late President Jagan.

“We were saddened by this passing and it fell to me, one who came out of the blue as it were, the honour, the occasion for which I had rather not arisen, to captain Cheddi's team to the end of this first term.”

He then declared: “But my cup has been full and indeed runneth over.” (The cup is also symbol of the PPP/Civic.)

“It is my hope that we can ensure a second term for the PPP/Civic, because the PPP/Civic has done well and is still doing good for Guyana,” he concluded.

Finance Minister Jagdeo, labelled the “rising star” in the alliance, also spoke to *Caribbean Week*. He said the government “has stuck faithfully and



SAM HINDS: running to get back old job.

steadfastly to the task of rebuilding Guyana”.

He referred to the collapsed state of the country's physical and social infra-



BHARRAT JAGDEO: running star

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