

# Janet Jagan adds to collection of children's stories

By Rickey Singh

**BRIDGETOWN, (CMC) — Janet Jagan, the renowned politician of some 56 years in Guyana's pre and post-independence struggles, is becoming a prolific writer of children's stories, even as she continues, at 80 years, to function as elder stateswoman of the governing People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/Civic).**

Her latest fully illustrated book of children's stories from Guyana, 'The Alligator Ferry Service', published by 'Harpy' in Ontario, Canada, has just been released as part of a collection of six such publications.

The book is dedicated to her

late husband, the legendary Cheddi Jagan, who died in March 1997 in his first term as President of Guyana.

The collection of illustrated stories, ranging from 20 to 76 pages, are as much about Guyana's landscape, birds and animals, its multi-ethnic peoples as well as aspects of the country's social and political history.

Earlier publication titles include stories of 'Guyana's Freedom Struggles', 'Patricia the Baby Manatee'; 'When Granpa Cheddi was a Boy'; 'Anatasia the Anteater'; and 'The Dog who Loved Flowers'.

A woman with an impressive record of firsts in Guyanese politics, including its first woman cabinet minister, Prime

Minister and later President from 1997-1999 when she resigned for health reasons, the author explains that her stories were written to entertain her grandchildren and other children to "guide their thinking in terms of understanding, love, sharing and friendship".

Mother of two and grandmother of five, the books, published between 1995 and 2001, are dedicated, variously, to her children, grandchildren and husband.

Adequate recognition is also given to the contributions of those responsible for the photographs and illustrations that contribute to make the publications "stories that will delight children all over the world and give them a sense of the magical beauty of

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Guyana's landscape and humanity of its peoples", according to Dr. David Dabydeen.

Professor of Literature at the University of Warwick, England, Dabydeen, who is also Guyana's ambassador to UNESCO, said the stories, as told by the author Jagan, are all set in Guyana.

"These stories of brave, ingenious, kindly and sometimes playful animals and children", he said, "use humour, mystery and excitement to provide a strong framework of positive human values..."

Janet Jagan, a former editor of the PPP-backed 'Mirror' newspaper for 20 years,

has been writing and publishing her collection of children's stories in and out of public office and during her regulated hours of work at 'Freedom House', headquarters of her party of which she was a co-founder.