

Be Proud of Our Gains!

by **Janet Jagan**

I was reading an item in the London Guardian, an excellent newspaper by the way, in which it looks at the sanitation and water situation in Dhaka,

access to clean water and sanitation, but it is estimated that this may take a half century to achieve.

The article noted that rich countries have promised to double assistance for this aim by 2010 but have yet to deliver. Every dollar spent on

population to undermine our sense of worth and well being and also, our common sense.

Spend just two days viewing some of the local TV stations and reading just two of the newspapers and a reasonable and intelligent

Just take a good, honest look at what is really going on in Guyana. The reality is that there is no such thing existing as racial discrimination. If one wants to see racial discrimination going on, visit or live in the US where segregated schools and housing exist everywhere. The same applies to jobs and social acceptance, with non-white Americans having to fight every inch of the way for their rights.

In Guyana, this just does not exist. Go to our hospitals and health centres, where all Guyanese are treated the same and where the doctors, nurses and other care givers are multi-racial. The same applies to our schools, from the formerly exclusive Queens and Bishops to all high schools and our University.

Take a good look, too, at the rapid improvements in medical help, with Malaria almost conquered and with our superb inoculation system for children and the spread of well equipped health centres throughout the country. Which government created these



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changes?

And why are we not in the half of the world suffering from lack of pure water supplies?

The answer is simply that our government spends money and brings in the experts to solve our water problems, not an easy matter in a country where its population is spread out as it is. How come we can say that our Amerindian population is better off than most throughout the world, including North America? Because we've made it so and changed the status of Amerindians to first class Guyanese citizens.

Yes, we have crime, awful, horrible crime, but our one to two percent of the

creators of lies and false perceptions, don't want us to talk about crime in other countries. However, the UK Economist of February 12, 2008 says that crime in Jamaica is much worse than in Guyana and that in Trinidad the murder rate has quadrupled over the past decade, yet the tourist trade seems unaffected. Nothing to boast about, but the fact is that crime all over the world is escalating due to several reasons – one being the easy availability of dangerous weapons. Take a look at TV – almost every station carries stories with ruthless killings – bop-bop-bop – a person on TV is shot to death every second. This must affect the minds of those who turn to criminality. They bring the TV screen to life! Or is it death?

We have to learn to ignore that small percentage of Guyanese who want it their way! They have no conscience, no real loyalties, no concern for people, no integrity and their goal has nothing to do with the betterment of people's lives or the future of the nation.

What does all this mean to us in Guyana? It is obvious that we are not in the unfortunate one half of the world's people suffering from poor sanitation and lack of pure water. We have forgotten how to reckon up or add up our good fortune and the positive aspects of life. We have allowed about one or two percent of our population to undermine our sense of worth and well being and also, our common sense.

Bangladesh, comparing the awful situation there with Victorian London, once just as bad. Reference was made to the efforts to improve the situation. It was also noted that the United Nations had recently launched its year of sanitation to mark the fact that 2.6 billion people, almost half the world's population, still live under insanitary conditions. The UN has set a target of halving the number of people without

sanitation and clean water gives \$9(US) of returns in health.

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person might be influenced to believe that Guyana is the worst possible country in the world. That is what propaganda is all about – to influence people in the direction that those who control the media wish. It becomes almost a sickness to see how evil can spread and, not alter the truth, but create perceptions that are false and useful to the falsifiers.