

PPP Ten Years of Service

(Written by the General Secretary of the PPP for 1960 Congress Programme, printed in Thunder, 23 April 1960 by Janet Jagan)

This year, 1960, is the tenth anniversary of the People's Progressive Party. It was in January 1950 that the Party was formally announced through the first publication of its official organ, Thunder.

The Party has moved in the direction of national independence and the transformation of Guiana into a socialist nation with a balanced industrial-agricultural economy. It has sought to secure and maintain the interests, well being, and prosperity of the downtrodden people of Guiana, and to win and preserve civil liberties and human rights.

The Party, throughout the ten-year period, has worked to unite the people into a movement capable of battling for the rights of the people. That this has been achieved is manifest in the tremendous political progress made during this period. Expressing and demanding the right of the people, the PPP has brought a tremendous change-over from limited franchise and full executive control in the hands of the Colonial Office representatives to adult suffrage and a ministerial form of government. And now, the attainment of independence is within sight!

Who can deny that these changes would have been delayed if the force, and unity forged by the PPP had not been present?

Throughout the decade of success and failure, loyalty and betrayal, disunity and unity, the Party has held faith. During the most trying hours when the Party was close to the edge of ruin, the loyalty and firm belief of members, the Party's sound foundation in the masses of working people and farmers, have kept it alive and vigorous.

Today, after 10 years, the Party has a mass following and tremendous support from all sections of the country. It is the only multi-racial political party in BG, in spite of a major split and attempts by the racial imperialist press and other political groups to undermine the national support the Party enjoys. The Party's organ Thunder has survived police raids and police guards; it has survived financial stress and imprisoned staff. And yet today it thrives as the most popular and respected weekly in BG.

Since the last general elections in 1957 the Majority Party has succeeded where many predicted failure. It has managed to win gains for the people and push forward the economic development of the country while at the same time it has maintained its firm beliefs and principles. The Majority Party has steered its ship through troubled waters without wrecking the boat, yet without changing its direction. In other words unlike some colonial parties in office, it has not become a "stooge" to the Colonial Office.

The new Five-Year Development Plan shows the imprint of the PPP with its declared policy of greater emphasis on economic over social development.

The Party has acquired its own headquarters building, "Freedom House". The PPP Education Trust with thousands of dollars in its bank account is a permanent record of the Party's contribution to the whole country. The Party has published a number of worthwhile booklets and owns a first class library.

And finally, after 10 years of service, the Party enjoys a name highly respected in Guiana and throughout the world.

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