

The Audit Commission - Burying the False Accusations

by Janet Jagan

Now that the results of the Audit Team that was commissioned to assess the results of the March 2001 elections is out, the PPP/Civic is again vindicated.

All the rubbish accusing the PPP/Civic of not being legally and fairly elected is again laid to rest.

This is the second time that accusations leading to extensive violence by the People's National Congress (PNC) have been proved to be false and malicious. The poor-loser party used the excuse of rigged elections in 1997 and 2001 to violate the people of Guyana. The trauma suffered by thousands of Guyanese on both occasions, the attacks on local businesses and the massive ruin of property match the same violence committed by the PNC in the 1960's.

In the '60s, Mr Burnham and his crew were not satisfied they got their wish of changing the whole electoral system from first-past-the-post to proportional representation. And having succeeded under the indomitable Cheddi Jagan of having free and fair election in 1992, the PPP/Civic won overwhelmingly under proportional representation.

The PPP/Civic did even better in the 1997 election - winning the highest percentage of votes in any election, including that of 1953. And for that convincing win the PNC, supported strongly by the WPA, sought to nullify those elections on the grounds of fraud. Of course, the Audit conducted by prominent Caribbean persons proved conclusively that the elections of 1997 were above board and free and fair.

The PNC which had rigged all elections during its 28 years ruthless rule, then proceeded to try to undo the proportional representation system of voting which that party had forcibly advocated in the 1960s. The PPP/Civic had won convincingly under that system in 1992 and 1997, so as far as the PNC was concerned, it needed change.

In the Constitution Commission set up following the Herdmanston Accord, strong efforts were made to bring back elements of first-past-the-post to undermine the proportional representation system that no longer could be used under conditions of fraud to ensure that the PNC was back in government. What a ludicrous scenario!

After the violent protests over the 2001 elections, which began with claims that the PNC lost due to electoral practices that hurt that party, it soon changed its tune since no one was buying that charge and then continued the violence on charges that Afro-Guyanese were "marginalized."

The PNC failed to remember what took place during its 28 years in office.

The slogan to "feed, clothe and house the nation" was a force with agricultural production declining - forget about "clothing the nation" and whatever housing the PNC engaged in, coming to a full stop! It was the PPP/Civic which revived agriculture and started a new and vibrant housing programme that is finally coming close to solving the horrific needs of people for housing.

And, by the way, what did the PNC government ever do to make Buxton better off? The PPP/Civic did far more, restoring its roads, water, schools. The Buxton violence is incomprehensible!

Again, Guyanese have had to face the unreasonable and uncalled-for wrath of the PNC - for what? - for nothing! The Audit Report just out shows as most everyone knew, that the March 2001 elections were free and fair, as were those of 1992 and 1997. The historic riggers lost at their own game!

August 12, 2001

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Cheddi Jagan Research Centre