



# Keeping Promises To Guyanese

Ever since becoming President of Guyana, His Excellency President Bharrat Jagdeo has proven successful in fulfilling many of the promises he made to people and communities as he moved around the country, taking heed of the concerns voiced by Guyanese of every ethnic group and from every stratum of society.

In his inauguration address in 2001, the President reviewed progress in many areas since the return of the People's Progressive Party/Civic to the Government, including health care, education, housing, water, job creation, local government, strengthening the armed forces, public sector wages, public accountability and economic governance.

President Jagdeo also took the time, in his address, to point out areas in which there was still much work to be done. He identified the urgency of reducing poverty levels, providing adequate housing for families, affordable health care for all, jobs and other opportunities for young people and better salaries and improved conditions for the workforce.

President Jagdeo also observed that stable and prosperous societies are built by genuine concerns being addressed and not by rhetoric and spurious charges.

“And this is the reason why I am urging that we move on so that the politicians of this country could never be accused of wasting the dreams of our young people,” the President said.

Almost three years have passed, and during that time, President Jagdeo has made and kept a long list of promises that has considerably improved the well-being of people in communities across Guyana. These promises fulfilled affect a variety of sectors, including water, infrastructure in the capital, in towns and villages, health care delivery, education, including new schools and scholarships, and facilities in indigenous communities.

This publication serves to present a President who is mindful of promises he makes, and who, as much as possible, works to keep them, in the face of challenges and inadequate resources.

The degree to which President Bharrat Jagdeo succeeds in doing what he promises to do is testimony to a Head of State who truly cares about the welfare of the people and the country he serves.

The following is just a synopsis of some of the promises fulfilled.

# Delivering on promises in the Education Sector



Promises are often associated with politicians, but are not often kept. This is not the case with President Bharrat Jagdeo. Since assuming Office in 1999, President Bharrat Jagdeo has made several promises in the education sector, the major ones being a University of Guyana Campus in Berbice, an Information Technology Centre for the University and more scholarship opportunities.

Today, standing tall in the ancient county of Berbice at Tain on the Corentyne Coast is a University of Guyana campus, which accommodates 300-odd students pursuing various disciplines. Additionally, the campus is being extended.



In 2001, while addressing students at the University's first Career Day, the Head of State committed \$200M to an Information Technology Centre.

In January 2004, the President declared open the state-of-the art structure.





## Delivering on promises in the Education Sector

The President in 2001 secured 350 scholarships in various disciplines. More than 200 Guyanese students have already taken up these. The Head of State after visiting India in 2003 managed to secure additional scholarships, bringing the total to 45 annually. Government has also increased the number of hinterland scholarships available to Amerindian students to pursue studies in Georgetown.



Overcrowding at the Tagore Memorial High School and dilapidated conditions at the Corriverton School were the reasons residents, teachers and students appealed to the President for an extension to the Tagore Memorial High School and a new school at Corriverton.

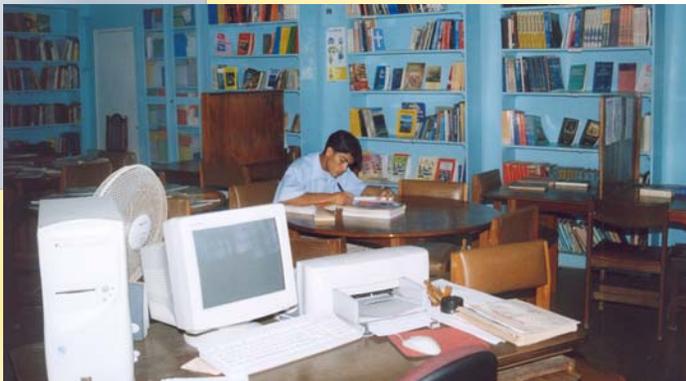
Today the Tagore Memorial High School has been extended to adequately accommodate students and a new School was commissioned in 2002 at Corriverton.



# Delivering on promises in the Education Sector



The Amerindians, natives to Guyana, is often regarded as benefiting the least from development. This is largely because their homes, located in the hinterland regions, are not easily accessible. However, the PPP/C Government has always prioritised the needs of the Amerindians. In September 2001, President Bharrat Jagdeo promised the students enhanced access to education via scholarships and a library at the hostel in Georgetown. One year later he students staying at the Hostel in Princess Street were able to utilize the library, furnished with relevant texts to both the primary and secondary levels.



In 2001, the President secured 350 scholarships from Cuba. Many Amerindian students have been awarded these. They benefit through the Public Service Ministry and the Hinterland Students scholarship programme. The latter hosts 225 students and sees an annual intake of 60 students.



# Delivering on promises to the Private Sector



After being appointed to Office in 1999, President Jagdeo pledged his commitment to working with the Private Sector...

In this context, the President hosted a business summit to foster partnership with private sector the same year.

Out of this a Tourism Authority and a Lands and Survey Department were established to give incentives to foster growth

A Small Business Act was passed in Parliament The Private Sector called for stock market legislation. Guyana now has an operational stock market.

It was agreed that a revenue authority will be established. There is now a Guyana Revenue Authority.

As agreed at the Summit, an Investment Code was later passed in the National Assembly and the Guyana Office for Investment was established.



# Keeping Promises to Guyanese



Showing Government's gratitude to its achievers

In 2001, Andrew 'Sixhead' Lewis became the first Guyanese to win a world championship in the boxing profession. The President promised to reward him.

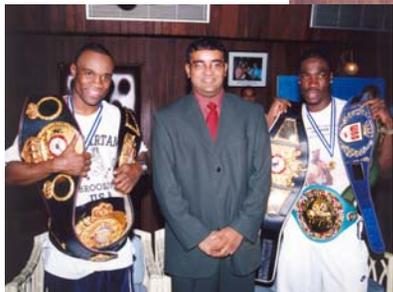
He was given \$5M to construct his house, a plot of land at the Eccles Housing Scheme and duty free concession to import a vehicle.

Guyanese Vivian Harris became the World Boxing Association (WBA) super-lightweight champion on October 19, 2002.

Wayne Braithwaite, another Guyanese boxer won the World Boxing Council (WBC) cruiserweight on October 11 last.

At that time President Bharrat Jagdeo noted that upon their return to Guyana Government would tangibly express its gratitude for their achievements.

They were each given \$5M to construct their house, a plot of land in a new housing scheme costing \$.2M and duty free concession to import a vehicle.



# Improving education access for rural communities



Residents of Edinburgh have over the years clamoured for their own health centre, as the nearest facility to the communities is too far away. Addressing this need, President Bharrat Jagdeo, during a Cabinet Outreach, made a commitment to have the centre built in Edinburgh.

In 2002 October, the President returned to commission the more than \$10M Health centre.



# Improving the lives of the indigenous people



The President had promised to build a new Amerindian Hostel at Mahaicony Region Five. That was completed in 2002.



President Bharrat Jagdeo promised to provide accommodation for Amerindians students from various villages attending school at St. Ignatius Region Nine. This promise was made in 2001, after several requests to the Head of State.

St. Ignatius now boasts a dormitory for Amerindian students from several villages  
Picture of dorm, St. Ignatius



# Improving the lives of the indigenous people...



Upon assuming Office in 1999, the President promised to expedite the process of demarcating Amerindian lands. To date 39 communities have been demarcated, with Regions Two, Three, Four, Five, Six and Ten being completed. The process continues.

Revision of the Amerindian Act is also ongoing.



# Enhanced municipalities



# Delivering on promises in the Governance Sector



A true people's person, President Jagdeo during the campaign leading up to the 2001 Elections, promised to bring the governing to the governed.

Every year the President and his Cabinet members spread out across Guyana on numerous occasions to ascertain and address the needs of Guyanese and to include them in the decision making process.



# Delivering on promises in the Governance Sector



Time and time again President Bharrat Jagdeo has promised to include all interest groups in the process of Governance especially the political parties.

To this end the Head of State has engaged the political Opposition in dialogue with both the past and present Leaders Desmond Hoyte and Robert Corbin. The President also had consultation with the political parties on crime.



# Enhanced municipalities



Government's effectivity is largely measured by the work of the municipalities. Hence President Bharrat Jagdeo promised to have the institutional capacity of the Towns be strengthened to enhance the work of the municipalities.

To date the New Amsterdam, Skeldon, Rose Hall, Anna Regina and Rosignol markets and town councils have all be rehabilitated, rebuilt and strengthened through the Urban Development Programme.



# Improving access to water supply



Government began a water project in New Amsterdam in 1992, but this was stalled for several reasons. President Bharrat Jagdeo later promised to have it completed.

In December 2003, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds commissioned the Water Treatment Plant. The total cost of the plant is \$880M.

In October 2000, President Bharrat Jagdeo promised an improved water supply system for residents at Bartica.

Today a \$439M Water Treatment Plant stands tall in Bartica, giving access to potable water to more than 10,000 people.



# Delivering on promises to develop Linden



In 2001, the Head of State committed to the economic development of Linden following the downturn of bauxite operations in the mining town.

The Linden Economic Advancement Programme (LEAP) was launched in 2002. It was funded by a \$400M grant from the European Union. This programme trains people; design business plans and aid access to business development, all aimed at fostering entrepreneurial skills.



# Meeting the needs of people...



President Bharrat Jagdeo promised staffers at the Linden Hospital Complex a new Ambulance in 2001.

On September 12, 2002 the medical vehicle was handed over.



During a Cabinet Outreach to Essequibo in 2000, President Bharrat Jagdeo promised to ensure that key services are provided within the Region. One of the requests was a fire station.

In 2003 October, Minister of Home Affairs Ronald Gajraj commissioned the new fire station and an access bridge costing \$24M.



# Restoring infrastructure



Upon assuming Office in 1999, the Head of State promised Essequibians to rehabilitate the road along the Essequibo Coast...

This has been completed at a cost of approximately US\$11M.



In 2000 President Bharrat Jagdeo promised residents to rehabilitate Princes Street in the City...

The next year the street was rehabilitated.



# Providing basic utilities to rural communities



The Head of State has repeatedly promised on his visits to the Regions to work at electrify areas that have been without electricity for years...

In 2001 December, Prime Minister Samuel Hinds switched on the first light switch to power the communities of Kilcoy and Chesney. Sandvroot followed shortly. More than 20 areas have been electrified, including housing settlements.



# Meeting the needs of Berbicians



President Bharrat Jagdeo during the 2001 elections campaign promised Berbicians a new Police Station at Rose Hall.

In 2003, the new outpost was commissioned by Minister of Home Affairs Ronald Gajraj.



# Delivering promises to children ...ensuring a healthy nation



Taking care of the nation's children; President Bharrat Jagdeo shortly after being sworn in as President in 1999 promised to allocate money to specifically fund treatment overseas for children.

The same year \$100M from the Lottery Funds paid to Government was given to treat more than 100 Guyanese children in Trinidad. The Ministry of Health also has a standard programme for overseas and local treatment, which amounts to about \$100M annually.



# Improving the Rice Industry



Government had always shown commitment to its people and finding solutions to problems in the various industries. It is in this context that President Bharrat Jagdeo in September 22, 2001 promised farmers who owed the banks small loans to assist them.

On January 31, 2002, the President after meeting the Guyana Association of Bankers, announced a 'Relief Package' for rice farmers with small loans. Some 1200 farmers were entitled to this benefit.



# Delivering on promises in the Housing Sector



In 2000, the President promised easy access to low income houses.

The Bill for Low Income Loans was passed the same year. Guyanese can now access up to \$2M to build houses



# Bridging the disparity



Government has always expended much effort into bridging the gap between the services offered in the City and those available in the Regions. To this end, President Bharrat Jagdeo during a Cabinet Outreach in 2000 to Essequibo promised several facilities including a multi-purpose building, a Town Hall, Technical Institute at Essequibo and a wharf at Charity.

These were all delivered in 2002 and 2003. The Technical Institute was constructed at the cost of \$92M, the Town Hall at \$54M and the multi-purpose centre at \$4.5M all at Anna Regina. The wharf at Charity cost \$10M.



# Modernising the sugar industry



At his inauguration in 1999, President Bharrat Jagdeo promised to never neglect the sugar industry.

During his State visit to India in 2004, the President secured a line of credit for the Rose Hall, Albion and Blairmont Estates from the Exim Bank in India.

Also through the Japanese Government there is a US\$110M modernisation project at Skeldon.



# Delivering on promises in the sport Sector



The President after meeting with stakeholders in 2003 agreed to assist with the building of a stadium so that Guyana can bid to host the World Cup cricket in 2007

Following the President's second State visit to India in January 2004, the Indian Government agreed to contribute US \$6M towards the stadium's financing. The remaining cost of the US\$20M stadium will be funded through soft loan. Construction for the stadium will start later this year at the Providence site, East Bank Demerara.

