



*Office of the President*  
*Skir Chanderpaul Drive & South Road*  
*Georgetown, Guyana.*

**4<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**

**His Excellency José Miguel Insulza**  
**Secretary General of the Organisation of American States**  
**Office of the Secretary General**  
**Washington, DC**  
**USA.**

**Dear Secretary General,**

**The results of the November 28, 2011 general and regional elections created a new and unique situation with a governing party which had the single largest bloc of votes but with one seat short of a majority in Parliament. The Government therefore held 32 seats and the two opposition parties have a combined majority with 26 and 7 seats, respectively.**

**Since January 10, 2012, the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament has witnessed the reduction of the annual budgets for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 by the opposition majority totalling approximately over GY \$90 Billion (US\$450M). This has had a major impact on the implementation of national developmental programmes, slashing funds allocated for major transformative infrastructural projects in alternative energy and transportation as well as services to and for further integration of indigenous communities into mainstream economy.**

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**This legislative stalemate led to the defeat of eight government bills. Most significant of these was the defeat in 2013 of the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, and, its subsequent re-submission and non-passage in 2014. This has brought Guyana under the review of the Financial Action Task Force in June 2014.**

**The fundamental contention surrounds the separation of powers of the three branches of government- executive, legislature and judiciary. The resulting political gridlock has contributed to significant uncertainty in the political environment and economic outlook with real concerns for political stability and investor confidence.**

**In December 2012, the Government officially submitted information through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the United Nations, the OAS Permanent Council, the Commonwealth, the UNASUR and CARICOM warning of the threat to Guyana's emerging parliamentary democracy as a result of the present state of instability in the Legislature. Since then the situation has worsened.**

**In the face of a No Confidence motion tabled by the opposition parties in August 2014, President Ramotar prorogued the Legislature on November 10, 2014 by proclamation, in accordance with the relevant Constitutional provisions.**

**President Ramotar addressed the Nation on November 10, 2014, and informed the public about the reasons for his decision to prorogue Parliament, (Copy of the Address is attached for your perusal). By proroguing the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the President wanted to preserve the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament, and create space for the "cooling of tempers" and create opportunities for dialogue between the government and the opposition. He also assured the public by stating that if that approach failed, the Parliament would be dissolved and national and regional elections called.**

**Since prorogation, the media has reported on public statements made by members of the leadership of A Party for National Unity (A.P.N.U.) and the Alliance For Change (AFC), that they were uninterested in commencing any discussions with the government.**

**President Ramotar subsequently formally wrote the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. David Granger, M.P., on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 inviting him to meet with him to discuss, inter alia, the way forward. Regrettably Mr Granger responded on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 declining the invitation.**

**The situation now has led to the President's resolve to end prorogation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament, dissolve it and call for National Elections.**

**In this vein, the President has sought to alert you about these recent developments.**

**President Ramotar has also decided to extend an early invitation to you, to consider appointing electoral observers to elections in Guyana in 2015.**

**Yours sincerely**

  
**Roger Luncheon, MD**  
**Head, Presidential Secretariat**





**Address to the Nation  
by  
His Excellency Donald Ramotar  
President of the Republic of Guyana**

**November 10, 2014**

Fellow Guyanese, in my address to you on November 4<sup>th</sup>, I indicated our desire for the National Assembly, in its post-recess sittings, to deliberate and give priority to important matters relating to the development of our country and the future of all of our people. I also extended a hand to the Opposition for us to put the nation's business first rather than political gamesmanship.

I further advised that should I be provided with reasons to believe that the Parliamentary Opposition intends to disrupt Government's business by forcing a debate on their No Confidence Motion, I resolved to respond immediately by exercising my Constitutional options to either Prorogue or Dissolve Parliament paving the way for holding of General Elections.

Consistent with my earlier position and in accordance with powers conferred on me by Article 70 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana, I earlier today issued a Proclamation proroguing the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

Fellow Guyanese, my decision to exercise this constitutional option was not taken lightly but it was the sole recourse that was left to me to ensure that the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament was preserved.

It is no secret that the Parliamentary Opposition parties had, at every conceivable opportunity, made known their clear intention to have their motion of no confidence against my Government debated instantly at the first post-recess sitting which was called for today November 10. Their one seat majority in Parliament could only mean its passage and the immediate irreversible dissolution of Parliament.

My appeals to return to normalcy, to constructively address the many important issues confronting us in Guyana, appear to have fallen on deaf ears.

The Opposition in Parliament intends to end the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament with immediate effect, dashing all hopes for urgent attention to issues relating to economic growth, social services and yes, the holding of Local Government Elections.

Some may ask why is it that my government has gone this Constitutional route and not go along with the debate? The answer lies in the practical choice between an atmosphere of confrontation, as the no confidence motion debate would fuel, or that of possible accommodation, as a prorogued Parliament can facilitate, if there is a genuine intent on all sides.

I also want to assure all that my decision ensures that the life of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament is preserved up to a maximum of six (6) months, as permitted by the Constitution of Guyana.

I pledge to you, to have my administration use that time during the period of prorogation to continue to engage the Parliamentary Opposition in constructive ways, in addressing the issues confronting Guyana.

It is, however, my genuine desire to have the prorogation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament ended sooner were my Government and the Opposition to reach an agreement for a return to normalcy. Further were these entreaties of cooperation by my government to be unsuccessful, I would then take the necessary steps for the holding of early General Elections so that the democratic will of our people can be freely exercised.

Fellow Guyanese, during this period your Government will continue to attend to the provision of basic goods and services. Your Government intends to abide strictly to the Constitutional provisions relating to this period. I will not allow any interruption of the stability and progress of our nation. Further, we will be keeping all stakeholders abreast of developments.

Fellow Guyanese, I have taken this step with the hope that the time gained would be used for the benefit our people.

I wish to appeal to all for political maturity and the exercise of good judgment to put Guyana, our blessed nation, and, its people first.

Thank You