

SPECIAL EDITION

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APNU+AFC

ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION UNITED!

DIASPORA



T I M E S

THE PEOPLE'S VICTORY

Like a River, the people hold history in their hands
And Tomorrow belongs to them.

A.J. Seymour - "Tomorrow belongs to the People"

BETTER HAS COME



TODAY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

By Frank A. Campbell

A J Seymour's "Tomorrow Belongs to the People" has long been one of my favourite fruits of the Guyanese poetic mind. So when time came to conceive the look, feel and sound of this celebratory issue of *Diaspora Times*, I quickly realized, and our team readily agreed, that this edition needed to highlight not our new president and prime minister but our new people.

This issue has few words. It is largely the product of the creative imagination of Claire Goring and Ashton Franklin. Over the last few weeks, Claire and Ashton have given selflessly, often sacrificially, of their time and talent as our graphic artists and desktop publishers. In this issue, they replicate the celebration that's happening in the hearts and homes of our people and on the streets of our towns and villages.

The next few pages are about the celebration of a people's freedom from almost a quarter century of social and economic abuse and imprisonment. They're a celebration of the power that people wield, even when, under the thumb of their governors, they no longer laugh but weep. These pages are a celebration of the delivering power of a people's God, who sometimes pauses but never sleeps.

In this celebration of the victory of our people, may we not lose sight that it is a victory for everybody. It is a victory for that young man, that young woman who, as my nephew, high-school principal Wil Campbell, and I seek to highlight in our article inside, voted "like a boss." But don't forget that 80-year-old great grandfather or that 101-year-old great-great grandmother. They too voted like a boss. Guyanese voted like a boss in the nation's capital and in the far hinterland. They voted like a boss in Indian villages and in African strongholds.

Some voted for APNU+AFC, some for the PPP, a few for one or other of the smaller parties. They all won. They all are blessed today to have David Granger and Moses Nagamootoo as their new top national leaders. They are all about to see governance of the kind they have not often seen, experience peace at a level that in recent times they could only dream about.

Let us not, however, lessen the value of our victory by seeing it in terms of one party, or, worse, one race. The tendency to do so is one we must leave behind if we are to free Guyana from the divisiveness that has strangled it for too long. We did not campaign to win an election. We campaigned to win a country and to change it. I appeal to readers of *Diaspora Times* to be wise enough to hasten the unity our country badly needs and patient enough not to be too frustrated by those still too blind to see the shift in political culture that we have started. Let's patiently help them learn that tomorrow, in fact today, belongs to all the people.



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GUYANESE, I REALLY LOVE YOU!

By Frank A. Campbell

Guyanese: *"This is the day that the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad."* I love you. Thank you very much.

It's been a long road, but you didn't lose faith. You believed in us. You worked hard—on the coastland, in the hinterland, in town and country, house by house, in the streets in the alleyways in the highways. We worked for this day. We are going to make sure that every Guyanese will have a good life.

Guyana is the biggest Caribbean country. It is the best Caribbean country. It is the most beautiful Caribbean country. And we don't have to be poor, and you don't deserve a government that keeps you poor. And that is what you told the world on Monday.

You want to live a happy life; you want to live a good life. That is all you want. You don't want to be strangers in your own country. And on Monday 11th May, you took back your country; you took back Guyana.

Today we celebrate. Today we could be happy. Today we could relax from our efforts. But when we go back out to work, we go back out as brothers and sisters. We go back as one people because we are one nation and we're going forward together to make sure that every child, every mother, every young woman, every older

person has a place in this beautiful country.

We have to abolish poverty. We have to abolish hatred for one another. We have to abolish ignorance and disease. This is a great country and you're a great people.

Thank you very much for helping me to reach the highest office in the land. But this is not for me. This is not for David Granger. This is for you and your children.

I want you to be happy with what you've done. I don't want you to hurt anyone. We have run a clean campaign. We have not abused anyone. We have not assaulted anyone. In fact, we saved someone from being assaulted. And the man picked up an old picture from an old traffic accident he had. But when he left the man was looking clean.

So we have helped to protect people. We have reached out. And we will continue to reach out because all Guyanese are our brothers and sisters. So, on the 11th of May, we all won. We all gained something. We told the world that we're a proud people, we're a decent people, and we deserve a decent life.

Thank you very much Guyanese for coming out. I really love you, Guyanese.

[This article is based on a speech to supporters after victory was announced]

"I am elated, I am happy for Guyana. We worked hard and we are convinced that now the evidence is clear that the majority of people are on our side. They understand our programme, they share our vision and I feel it's the best thing for Guyana. We are a six-party coalition and we are the closet Guyana has ever gotten to a government of national unity, and that makes me very happy."

David Arthur Granger,
*the new president of the
Cooperative Republic of Guyana*

"I was asked what best can come out of the May 11 elections: [it is] a victory where all are winners. Notwithstanding the showing of each party, Guyanese, all Guyanese, (should) feel included in continuing to build a prosperous and cohesive society. It can be a grand, historical opportunity to change the paradigm of how we govern and make everyone feel truly a part of the future as we march to 50 years of independence."

Robert Persaud,
*former PPP/C Minister of Natural Resources and
the Environment (conceding on Facebook that
APNU+AFC had won the elections)*

"It is my firm opinion that the PPP should concede since any recount will not statistically change the result of the elections as announced by GECOM. Good leadership is essential especially at this time; and by conceding and with the outgoing president meeting with the incoming president and offering working cooperation, at least that will be aptly demonstrated clearly to all Guyanese."

Dr. Odeen Ishmael,
former ambassador in the PPP/C administration

"The 'Lords of the Plantations' cannot believe that their faithful slaves want freedom. Every trick in their playbook will be tried. Declare the results and let us move on. Please save the files, discs and hard drives for future historians."

Seelochan Beharry on Facebook



**What the
Guyanese
people say...**

"Finally...Congratulations!!!"

Julie Souvenir,
a Guyanese living in the United States

THE PEOPLE'S VICTORY: TODAY BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

"The long awaited game is over....

With 23 years of corruption, bribery, nepotism, death squads, human rights violations, police brutality, neglect of economically depressed communities, etc, etc.

Guyana now has a newly elected president, and his name is David Granger.

I wish to congratulate President-Elect Granger and the entire coalition for a job well done.

"And, despite the fact that the Independent Party (IP) didn't make it to parliament, we will still be keeping an eye on the new administration in order to ensure that every Guyanese is included in the rebuilding of Guyana. We will not tolerate any form of corruption, nepotism, arrogance etc. by the new ministers or other government officials. (Let Guyana #☐BreatheAgain☐)"

Mark Anthony Benschop,
leader of the Independent Party

"It is obvious by the relatively close margin that the people of Guyana like both parties; therefore why should there be a winner and loser? By combining their efforts they can maximize and help to build a better Guyana. After all the People of Guyana have suffered enough. Many of us have migrated and have contributed to the growth of other countries and want give back if they can be assured of progress and security. The time is now for our leaders to set an example for unity. Confidence has to be restored if progress is to be achieved. Enough is enough."

Ray Azees Ramroop,
Guyanese in the United States

"Gecom and the people have spoken....congrats to the victors....the PPP will remain a strong party in the years to come."

Clinton Urling,
PPP/C elections candidate

"The PPP should behave with some dignity, concede, telephone David Granger and offer congratulations, and offer their cooperation for the development for the country."

Ralph Ramkarran,
*former speaker and former
PPP executive committee member*

"It is fundamental to democracy that the people are able to vote and replace elected representatives in periodic, free and fair elections. Our four organisations accept the conclusion of the various official observers that these



elections were free and fair and reflect the will of the people.

"It is contrary to democracy to continue to delay the swearing in of Brigadier David Granger as President and the handover of executive government to the APNU+AFC coalition.

"We are proud that the people of Guyana have shown great patience and restraint during this week. We look forward to a new Parliament based on respect for the rule of law and respect for the inherent dignity of each and every citizen of Guyana."

Guyana Bar Association, Guyana Association of Women's Lawyers, Justice Institute of Guyana, Transparency Institute (Guyana) Inc.

"Almost 24 hours have elapsed since GECOM declared the preliminary results of the 2015 elections, giving a slim victory to the coalition. We are also aware that the PPP are challenging the results. Bearing this in mind, we are asking GECOM to move on with the process and arrange for the coalition presidential candidate, Mr. Granger, to be sworn in as soon as possible. We believe that GECOM has the authority and responsibility to do precisely this."

Swami Aksharananda

"The uncertainty created by this state of affairs has caused business, productivity and the entire country to grind to a halt. As a nation we cannot continue to suffer because of the machinations of parts of our political establishment.

"We therefore urge all parties to accept the results of the elections. There is a legal recourse available for all those who are dissatisfied with any part of the electoral process."

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry

"I am concerned here with the management of the electoral process by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) and the length of time it took to declare a final result. The problem requires immediate attention, particularly as it is not the first time that it has occurred despite the fact that fewer than 500,000 votes had to be counted.

That there was only one violent incident of significance during the four days when the level of frustration by the public rose steadily is a tribute to the growing maturity of the Guyanese people."

Sir Ronald Sanders,
former Guyanese broadcaster and former Antiguan High Commissioner

"The PPP is not going to just roll over."

Bharrat Jagdeo,
former president and the real PPP/C presidential candidate in the 2015 elections.

European Union

"The European Union notes that the Guyanese General and Regional elections of 11 of May 2015 were largely peaceful, transparent and inclusive with a high turnout and good performance of electoral authorities. The EU commends the Guyana Elections Commission for an efficient and well-organised election process.

"The EU calls on all actors to respect the legal procedures and address any possible grievance through the channels established by the law."

British High Commissioner

"We continue to believe that what we observed on Election Day was a free, fair and credible process.

"We (and our colleagues in other Observer Missions) investigated several complaints which were highlighted to us on Election Day. We found nothing that we believe would materially affect any result.

"We note the allegations made by the PPP/C but have found no evidence to support them. Nor have we been given any. We remain confident in GECOM's ability to deliver an accurate result and urge them to produce a final tally as soon as possible. We also urge all to continue to exercise patience, support the work of GECOM, and respect its final result.

"We would like to remind the parties of the commitments they made in signing the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and encourage them to abide by its provisions."

Greg Quinn

British High Commissioner

United States Embassy

"The United States Embassy is in receipt of the recent allegations made by the Peoples Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) and has looked into the claims. Nothing contained therein changes our baseline assessment of the electoral process.

Based on our observations of the polling, counting, and tabulation process and the conclusions reached by other international observer missions, we continue to assess that the election process was free and fair. We remain confident in the Guyana Elections Commission's ability to deliver credible results that accurately reflect the way votes were cast by the Guyanese people on May 11. We urge the Guyana Elections Commission to continue with its important tabulation work and to provide verified results at the earliest possible opportunity..."

The Guardian Newspaper

(United Kingdom)

"Guyana's multiracial opposition coalition has won a national election, breaking the ruling Indo-Guyanese party's 23 year-old grip on power, the election board said on Thursday, signalling a new era in the ethnically divided South American country..."

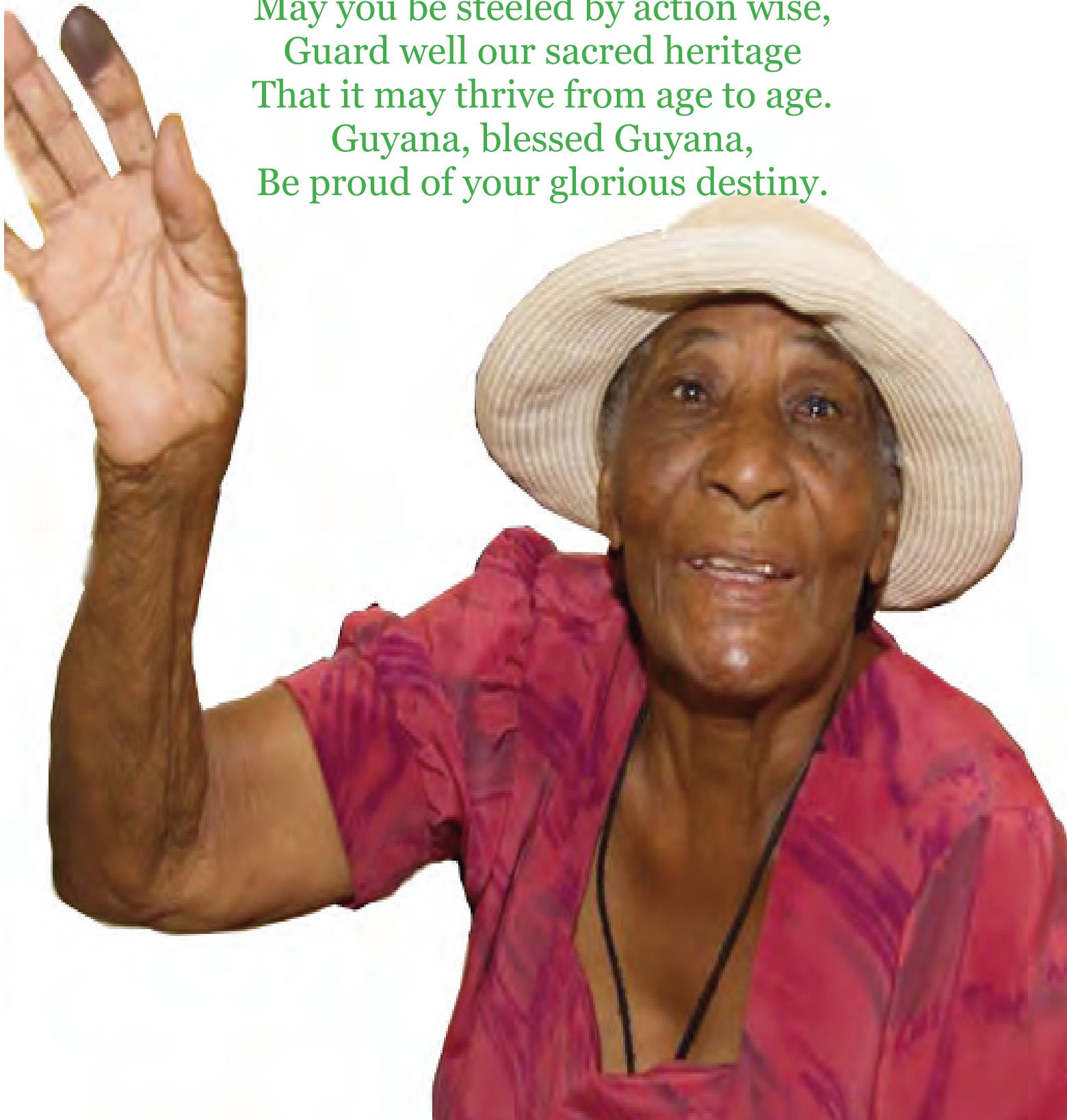
Diplomats from the UK and US said the elections were free and fair, and the elections commission said its first tally was unlikely to change on review. But Ramotar said the elections were rigged and demanded a recount, without giving any basis for his accusations."

What the world says...



Arise! Guyana's sons, Arise!

May you be steeled by action wise,
Guard well our sacred heritage
That it may thrive from age to age.
Guyana, blessed Guyana,
Be proud of your glorious destiny.





TOGETHER AGAIN

Burnham & Jagan

BETTER HAS COME

AUNTY NAZMOON BETTER HAS COME

This is my Aunty Nazmoon.
We went to vote together.
My Aunty Nazmoon is the person who inspired the
campaign slogan "IT IS TIME".
When I came back from Antigua a
few months ago to work on the
campaign I asked her what she
thought about the elections. Her
response was immediate
"It is time to vote for change".
It stuck with me.
A few weeks later when we
had the meeting to
decide upon the campaign
slogan there was
universal agreement
around the table.
One person who had
written down some
other slogan options
on a paper immediately
scratched them all as
soon as he heard

**"IT IS
TIME".**

Imran Khan



ENGAGED & ENTHUSIASTIC THE DAY GUYANESE YOUTH **VOTED LIKE A BOSS**

And the children grow
Force their way out of the slums into the professions
And stand up in the legislature.

A.J. Seymour - "Tomorrow belongs to the People"



Soca singer Machel Montano's "Like Ah Boss" was the tune played at most competition points on Carnival Tuesday in neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago. The message of the song, delivered in Machel Montano's usual high-energy, fast-paced style, is that when he's feting, he's feting "Like Ah Boss."

This was the most likely origin of the slogan "Vote like a boss" selected by the Guyana National Youth Council (GNYC) to overcome the indifference, apathy and disinterest plaguing youths and other Guyanese.

The success of this program may well help explain APNU+AFC's victory over the incumbent, extremely well resourced PPP. As a result of this success, Guyana can breathe again.

Vote Like a Boss is a voter education program

launched by GNYC, a youth advocacy group established to encourage youth to get involved in the electoral process. The Council wants the youth not only to "vote like a boss" but also to hold elected officials accountable. The idea is, when you vote, you employ officials to work for you! You, not the politicians, are the boss.

Stanleytown Village on the west bank of the Demerara River, where Wil lives and where Frank once lived, is a case study of how the campaign worked. As with many other depressed communities, a large proportion of Stanleytown's residents are youth of voting age. Three months ago before the May 11 2015 elections, the prevailing sentiment was: "It doesn't matter who's in power. They're all the same and we'll still have to work hard to survive."

THE DAY THEY VOTED LIKE A BOSS

By Wil A. Campbell and Frank A. Campbell



Four days later, there was a massive rally to launch APNU+AFC campaign in Linden, another depressed community. Young political leaders addressed the widely publicized launch.

Then the #MOVEFORWARD campaign organized by young pro APNU+AFC activists using social media, got young people of all races to condemn race-based politics and to appeal to other youths to "move forward" and reject corruption, cronyism, racism, joblessness and other ills facing the society. This initiative had a wide appeal among youth in

places like Stanleytown and, it seems, countrywide.

APNU+AFC helped energize and earn the youth vote by holding several youth rallies.

The incumbent PPP/C, meanwhile, with its superior resources and budget, rather than campaign on issues, sought to divide the electorate based on race, and fear. Many young voters rejected race-based politics and were too young to be afraid of people long dead, who allegedly committed fearful acts against sections of the population.

THE DAY GUYANESE YOUTH VOTED LIKE A BOSS



But the youths were not the only ones who voted like a boss. So did their parents. So did their grandparents, and even their great grandparents. Not only were people trekking to the polling stations as early as 3:00 a.m. to await the opening of the poll at 6:00 a.m. in some communities, folks were beating pots, pans and more conventional musical instruments to wake their neighbors up.

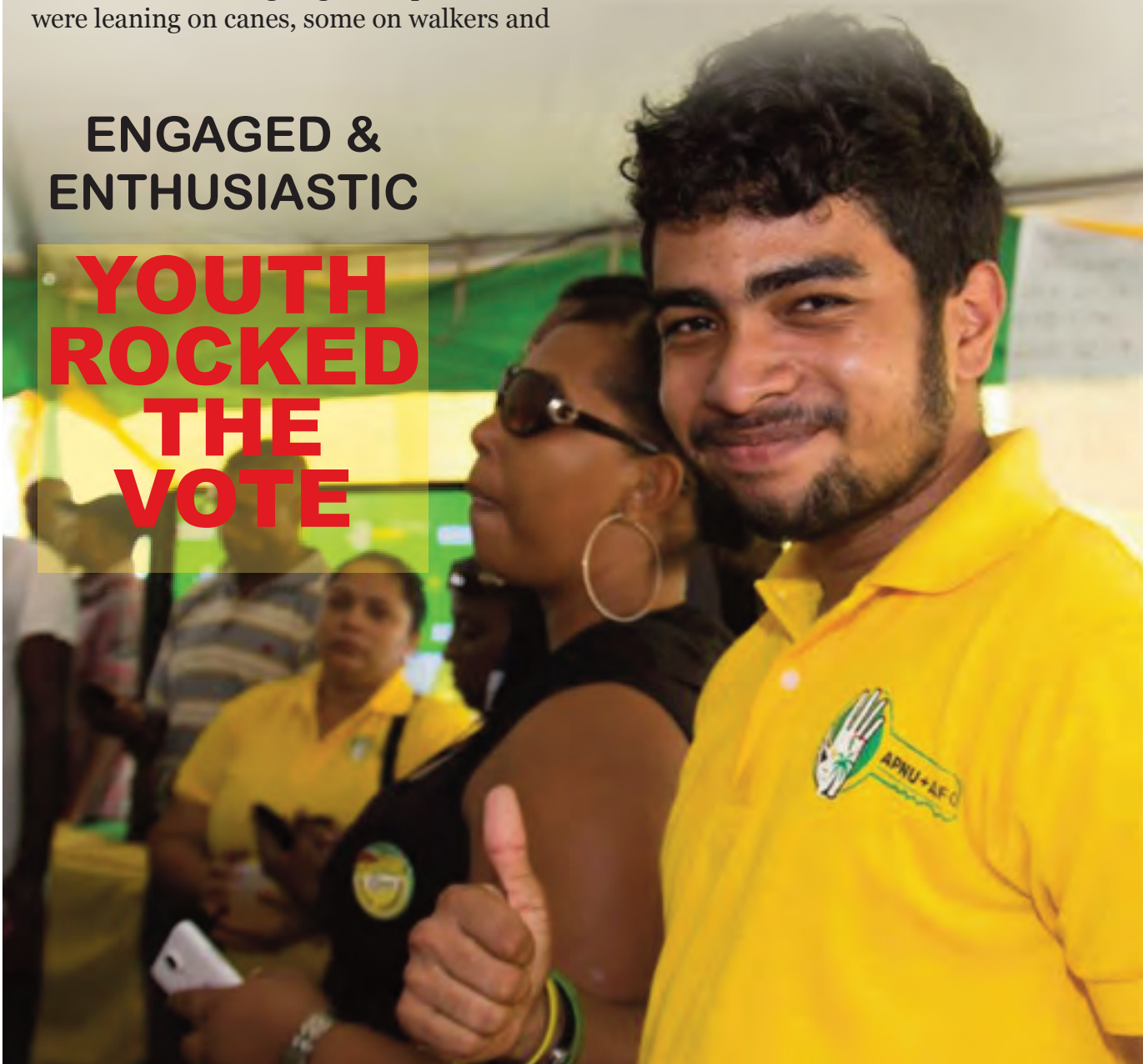
On social and traditional media you could see pictures of people in their 80's and 90's, and a few over 100, going to the polls. Some were leaning on canes, some on walkers and

others in wheelchairs. A few were carried like babies on the arms of young men after, or before, the latter had cast their own votes.

So, it may be true that every day Machel Montano comes out to fete, he fetes "like ah boss." But on one day, on May 11, 2015, when the young people of Guyana came out to vote, they voted like a boss. May they also conduct themselves like a boss on their jobs, at school and in things political during the next five years and beyond.

ENGAGED & ENTHUSIASTIC

YOUTH ROCKED THE VOTE





FASHION for a CELE BRA TION

A photograph of two women standing outdoors in a tropical setting. The woman on the right is in the foreground, wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a long, patterned dress. The woman on the left is slightly behind her, wearing a blue patterned shirt and a wide-brimmed hat. They are standing on a dirt path with lush greenery and a building in the background.

PRAISE GOD BETTER HAS COME

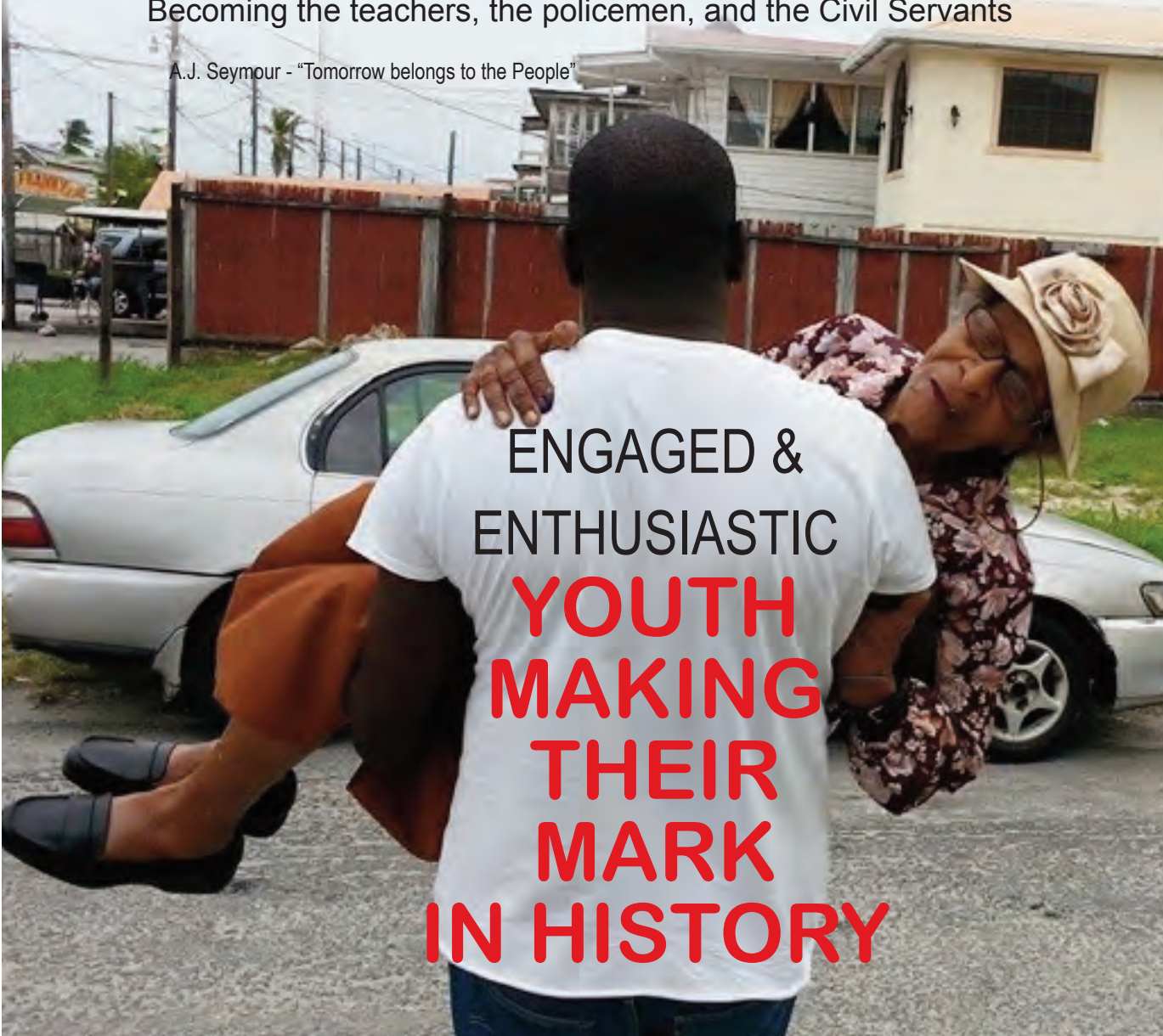
And the women work
patiently along with
the men
And look after
the children,
as best they can.

A.J. Seymour - "Tomorrow belongs to the People"

TOMORROW BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

The labour leaders and the politicians
Shake fists to rouse the rabble
But that giant, the people
They say yes or no to the proposition ,
Chinese running their groceries and their laundry places
Portuguese controlling the dry goods and the pawnshops
Indians saving every half of a shilling
Cutting in canefields
Breaking their backs to grow rice.
Africans tramping aback for the provisions,
Running the falls topside for fabulous diamonds,
Becoming the teachers, the policemen, and the Civil Servants

A.J. Seymour - "Tomorrow belongs to the People"

A photograph of a young man from behind, wearing a white t-shirt, carrying an elderly woman on his back. The woman is wearing a floral patterned shirt, a large tan hat with a flower, and glasses. They are outdoors on a paved area with a white car and a red fence in the background. The text 'ENGAGED & ENTHUSIASTIC YOUTH MAKING THEIR MARK IN HISTORY' is overlaid on the image.

ENGAGED &
ENTHUSIASTIC
**YOUTH
MAKING
THEIR
MARK
IN HISTORY**



FORWARD IN UNITY

*History is theirs,
Because history doesn't belong
To the kings, and the governors and the legislature.
History basically is the work men do with their hands
When they battle with the earth And grow food and dig materials
For other people profits and other people skill.
And other people know it too.*

A.J. Seymour - "Tomorrow belongs to the People"

*"Don't worry 'bout a thing,
'Cause every little thing
gonna be all right."*

*"Don't worry (don't
worry) 'bout a thing,
'Cause every little thing
gonna be all right! "*

**DON'T WORRY
'BOUT A THING.
EVERY LITTLE THING
GONNA BE ALRIGHT**

