Message on the occasion of the 51st Anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Ambassador Riyad Insanally, CCH
February 23, 2021

Fellow Guyanese and Friends of Guyana,

It is hard to believe that just one year ago, we were celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Guyana becoming a Republic, looking ahead to a future for Guyana bright with the promise of rapid growth and massive economic and social transformation.

We were, of course, unaware of the way our world would be upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, for those who were present at the reception hosted by the Embassy at the OAS Hall of the Americas in Washington, DC, there was no inkling that there would be no more such gatherings for a long time.

I know that, for most of us, the past year has been one of hardship, sacrifice, confinement and loss, made worse in many instances by our inability to gather with loved ones to share in the joy of the achievements of family members and friends – the little and big things that make life worth living – and, in times of extreme adversity, to give comfort and support to each other, and to grieve together.

The past year, then, has been one mostly of reflection, solidarity and resilience, marked by instances of often unsung heroism and fortitude and many acts of kindness. It has been a time when we have drawn strength from the triumphs of those close to us and inspiration from ordinary folks doing extraordinary deeds. It has been a time of immense pride in the work of those Guyanese who have distinguished themselves as frontline workers and as scientific researchers, all doing their bit to combat the dreaded virus. And it has been a time when Guyanese Americans have continued to provide support to those in need back home.

On behalf of the staff of the Embassy of Guyana and on my own behalf, I salute all who have made a contribution, no matter how modest, to helping others persevere, in your homes, in your communities and in Guyana, in the face of the greatest challenge of our time. I wish you all good health and urge you to keep your guard up, even as we look forward to the rolling out of vaccines for all. And I ask you to keep the fortunes of our Dear Land of Guyana and the wellbeing of our compatriots in your thoughts, even as we raise a virtual toast on the 51st Anniversary of our Republic.

Happy Republic Day, Guyana! One Guyana, One Love!