

1/26/10

Mr. Peter Lallas
Executive Secretary
The Inspection Panel
1818 H Street NW, MSN MC10-1007
Washington, D.C. 20433
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Lallas,

Re: Investigation request into Janette Bulkan's termination from a World Bank Technical Advisory Panel for Suriname's Readiness Preparation Proposal.

On January 16th 2009 the Guyana Times printed an article describing the request by the Government of Guyana for the immediate removal of Janette Bulkan, Ph.D. from a World Bank Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) on Suriname's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Since January 16th, many more news articles in Guyana have carried this story (please see lcdsguyana.com for links to all online articles to date). Guyana's Minister of Agriculture with responsibility for forests, Mr. Robert Persaud, sent a letter to the World Bank on 26 November 2009 asking for Dr. Bulkan's immediate removal from the TAP because she "has poor understanding of sustainable forest management principles and has participated in slanderous statements accusing the government and President of incompetency and shady activities" and also because she failed to comment on a map used by Suriname that claims the New River Triangle. This attack on Dr. Bulkan's expertise by the government of Guyana is alarming as she has long been involved with forestry issues in Guyana, including the completion of a Ph.D. from Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies on this topic.

In July 2009, the Stabroek News, the country's leading newspaper in terms of online hits, published a ten part series of hers on carbon in the forests of Guyana which was educational, informative and useful in the understanding of issues related to the country's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Dr. Bulkan is a female academic whose dedication to sustainable forestry issues in Guyana spans many years and never fails to call for transparency and good governance throughout all processes.

The fact that Dr. Bulkan is well trained and well versed in topics related to forestry management makes it all the more disturbing that a Minister in the Government of Guyana would not only question her ability, but go as far as to request her removal from a World Bank panel. The government has labeled her "unpatriotic" for not commenting on the map submitted by Suriname. According to Dr. Bulkan, she was absent from the October 9th TAP meeting where the map was presented and she missed the small map inserted in the draft R-PP document under her review. The Government of Guyana has not condemned the other Guyanese member on the Suriname TAP, for failing to object to the map, so this was clearly not the reason for the objection to Dr. Bulkan. Upsetting as it is that Suriname would use a map showing part of Guyana as theirs, we seriously doubt that the World Bank contracted Dr. Bulkan to capture this foreign affairs blunder and would hate to think that her "oversight" is a reason for her removal from a panel.

We have learnt that Dr. Bulkan's contract with the World Bank was terminated on December 23rd, 2009. Given the recent newspaper articles in Guyana on her World Bank contract, we request that the World Bank provides a response on this matter. We would like to know the bank's response to Minister Persaud's letter requesting Janette Bulkan's immediate termination from the panel, and the names of the TAP who will review Suriname's future R-PP submissions. What influence did Minister Persaud's letter have in the termination of Dr. Bulkan's contract? Article 13 of the Charter establishing the FCFP states that Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Panels may be established for the purpose of providing technical advice and information and shall be independent, impartial and proportionate to the tasks being undertaken

(http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/FCPF_Charter_06-13-08.pdf). As members of the Guyanese diaspora and as citizens of countries that fund the World Bank's activities, we would appreciate your prompt response to this matter which may seem small, but means a lot for the transparency promised by the Government of Guyana and the international community under the new funding mechanisms aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forests through livelihood compensation to the affected groups.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

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2	Anand Daljeet		Canada / Guyana
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4	Andrea Williams		
5	Arif Bulkan, PhD	University of the West Indies	Cave Hill, Barbados
6	Ayanna Young Marshall		Barbados, WI
7	Cathy Hughes		Guyana
8	Christpher Ram	Civil Society	Guyana
9	Colette McDermott		
10	David Patterson	MP - AFC	Georgetown, Guyana
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12	Dawn Holder		Georgetown, Guyana
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26	Gordon Burnett		USA
27	Howard Bulkan		Georgetown, Guyana
28	Iman Khan		Canada
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30	Janice Rogers		Toronto, Canada
31	Janis Davis-Street		
32	Jean Ann Semple		
33	Jennifer Sande		
34	Jeremy Ross		
35	Joanne C. da Luz		
36	JOEL CHEE ALLOY		TRINIDAD
37	Joel Simpson		East Coast Demerara, Guyana
38	John Forte		
39	John Lord		
40	Justin Bulkan		Georgetown, Guyana
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42	Karen Jardim		NY, USA
43	Khemraj Ramjattan	Member of Parliament; Chairman of AFC	Guyana
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60	Oma Sewhdat		Canada
61	Patsy Jaganath		New York USA
62	Pauline Melville		

63	Raquel Thomas	Colleague	Guyana
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68	Rupert Roopnarine	Guyana Citizens Initiative	Georgetown, Guyana
69	Shalisa Ali		ON, Canada
70	Sharon Ousman		NJ, USA
71	Sheila Holder, MP	Vice-chair Alliance For Change	Guyana
72	Shiromani Quail		
73	Sydney Elias		Canada
74	Tanya Chung Tiam Fook	York University	Toronto, Canada
75	Tarron Khemraj	New College of Florida/CCMF	USA
76	Terry Roopnarine		London, UK
77	Tomica Bess		Guyana
78	Tracy Robinson		Bridgetown, Barbados
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80	Vidyaratha Kissoon		Georgetown, Guyana
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