



LONDON HOUSE CHAMBERS
ATTORNEYS

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VIA EMAIL AND POST

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Dr. Jan Mangal (j.mangal@bnc.oxon.org)
PO Box 79732
Houston, Texas 77279,
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Dear Dr. Mangal:

Re: Robert Persaud v. Jan Mangal

We have been retained by Mr. Robert Persaud, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (“Mr. Persaud”), in connection with various false and defamatory statements made and published by you on social media, in person and to various local newspapers on the dates set forth below (the “Articles”).

As is explained below, those statements, when read together, impugn the basic integrity of our client and on the whole constitute actionable libel per se. Simply put, you have accused Mr. Persaud, a selfless civil servant, repeatedly since 2015 of awarding oil blocks to companies with little experience in oil production just prior to the National and Regional Elections under the guise of suspicion, which projects onto the public at large, locally, regionally and internationally, and as being corrupt, illegal and fraudulent.

Separate and apart from the foregoing, the Articles and Statements are based on the false premise that Mr. Persaud actively and intentionally awarded oil blocks to companies in an illegal manner, essentially ‘gifting’ the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks to local companies under fraudulent and illegal means, all allegations which are not only untrue, but fundamentally offensive and defamatory.

Your statements have impacted Mr. Persaud personally and professionally by damaging his credibility, causing much distress and damage. Even more egregious is the fact that you have been on a repeated campaign over the last 5 (five) years to defame Mr. Persaud when in fact, you would have been aware that it was the then President of Guyana, as the Minister of Petroleum, and not Mr. Persaud, who had awarded the said oil blocks in 2015.

Even further, you would have had access to records which would have showed that the companies' applications were being processed by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission ("GGMC") since 2012/2013, and at no time was Mr. Persaud involved in the review of the said applications or any technical processes. The recommendations made by the technical staff of the GGMC were then transmitted to the former President, who then made the awards of the oil blocks.

Any delay in granting the awards were as a result of the actions of Venezuela, which had carried out various forms of aggressions to disrupt petroleum exploration activities in Guyana's off-shore; this being public knowledge.

Your repeated and continued suggestions of fraud or illegal dealing against Mr. Persaud are clearly defamatory and without any basis.

It is also public knowledge that the Global Witness' final report evidences that there was no breach of process, illegality or wrong doing in the granting of Petroleum Prospecting licenses for the Kaieteur and Canje offshore blocks, of which you were privy.

We therefore write to request an immediate retraction of these Articles and publications, and for an apology to be issued, failing which we shall have no choice but to commence suit for the significant injury that Mr. Persaud has and continues to suffer, in an amount to be determined at trial, but not less than US\$2,000,000.00 (G\$430,000,000.00).

A. Background

Our client is the former Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana, and is currently Guyana's Foreign Secretary. In 1993, Mr. Persaud began his career as editor for the Mirror Newspaper, and in 1999, he was appointed Presidential Advisor. In 2001, Mr. Persaud served in the Cabinet of the Ministry of Natural Resources. From 2006 to 2011, he was served as Minister of Agriculture from 2011 until 2015, when he was appointed the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment. On 17 August 2020, Mr. Persaud was appointed Foreign Secretary attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a position which he still currently holds.

Throughout his career, Mr. Persaud has never been accused of a crime, as being corrupt, as benefitting personally directly or indirectly by virtue of being in a Government appointed post, or as participating in or being complicit with any illegal or unsavoury activity.

By virtue of his previous positions, while Mr. Persaud has been privy to privileged high level discussions concerning Guyana's oil sector, Mr. Persaud was not the Government official responsible for the issuing of the award of oil blocks; this being an act of the former President through a transparent and legal process. At no time did Mr. Persaud act contrary to the duties which were held under his portfolio.

Despite the foregoing, as is elucidated below, you have made various false public statements to the contrary, which statements have and continue to irreparably damage our client.

B. The Publications

(a) News Articles

(i) Stabroek News, September 9, 2020

In this letter to the Editor of Stabroek News captioned ‘Traditional PPP supporters can stand up and prevent giveaway to ExxonMobil’, you state as follows:

People are now saying VP Jagdeo is a sell-out to ExxonMobil. But I disagree, because the PPP leadership forfeited the interests of the poor people of Guyana to ExxonMobil since 2015.

Robert Persaud quietly awarded the Canje/Kaieteur oil blocks to non-entities in 2015 days before his party lost the election, and then ExxonMobil quickly bought into these two blocks (and is now in control). The deserving people of Guyana lost US\$100’s million and even billions by these two awards, by this forfeiture of our natural resource wealth.

So it is my opinion the PPP leadership have been acting in ways that benefit ExxonMobil at the expense of the people of Guyana since 2015. And I ask why would public servants do such a thing? Is it not complete dereliction of duty of a public servant to squander the country’s wealth?

(ii) Oil & Governance Network Post, dated September 9, 2020

In your letter to the Oil & Governance Network page with caption “Robert Persaud quietly awarded the Canje/Kaieteur oil blocks to non-entities in 2015 days before his party lost the election, and then ExxonMobil quickly bought into these two blocks”, you state that:

Robert Persaud quietly awarded the Canje/Kaieteur oil blocks to non-entities in 2015 days before his party lost the election, and then ExxonMobil quickly bought into these two blocks (and is now in control). The deserving people of Guyana lost US\$100’s million and even billions by these two awards, by this forfeiture of our natural resource wealth.

So it is my opinion the PPP leadership have been acting in ways that benefit ExxonMobil at the expense of the people of Guyana since 2015. And I ask why would public servants do such a thing? Is it

not complete dereliction of duty of a public servant to squander the country's wealth?

If VP Jagdeo is intent to sell-out Guyana to ExxonMobil, by approving the Payara project and by not re-negotiating the contract for the Stabroek Block, then I can see why Carl Greenidge and Robert Persaud have been brought into the new government.

(iii) Stabroek News, March 2, 2020

In an article published by Stabroek News on March 2, 2020 captioned 'Exxon pressing ahead with fourth well development', you are quoted as follows:

I advised not to approve the then projects until we could get a better deal on future projects. Around that time, Bynoe [Director of the Department of Energy Dr. Mark Bynoe] and Wilks [United Kingdom based Adviser Matthew Wilks] came in and they probably recommended that government approve the Liza-2. That was done and it was not the correct thing to do. They should not have done that", he said. He added that holding approval and getting expert analysis for the project and then using the said information as bargaining leverage would have been a better plan. "It is not just the Stabroek Block but also the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks. Those are things we need to address.

(iv) Stabroek News, February 2, 2020

In an article published by Kaieteur News on February 2, 2020 captioned 'Elements of a strategy for oil and Guyana', you are quoted as follows:

For us to benefit from our own oil wealth, or from any of our wealth, be it gold, bauxite, etc, we need to reduce the 50-year ongoing theft by parasitic elites (both political and private sector), who sometimes have been in cahoots with international sharks. We need to finally start dismantling this tragic system created by Burnham's PNC and perfected by Jagdeo's PPP.

I also warned the President it was likely some elements in the previous government were influenced by the oil companies since they awarded the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks to non-entities, in highly suspicious circumstances

days before the last elections. ExxonMobil and Hess then quickly bought big shares in those two blocks.

And might it be possible President Granger would not approve the third project, Payara, unless Guyana gets a re-balanced contract? This would be momentous. And might the opposition change their position and start calling for a re-negotiation of the Stabroek Block contract, and for the Canje and Kaieteur awards to be rescinded? And might Guyanese finally create a new and more accountable system of governance?

(v) Stabroek News, January 28, 2020

In an article published by Stabroek News on January 28, 2020 captioned ‘Steep rise in oil reserve seen as upping pressure for revamping of Exxon deal’, you are quoted as follows:

I advised not to approve the then projects until we could get a better deal on future projects. Around that time, Bynoe [Director of the Department of Energy Dr. Mark Bynoe] and Wilks [United Kingdom based Adviser Matthew Wilks] came in and they probably recommended that government approve the Liza-2. That was done and it was not the correct thing to do. They should not have done that”, he said. He added that holding approval and getting expert analysis for the project and then using the said information as bargaining leverage would have been a better plan. “It is not just the Stabroek Block but also the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks. Those are things we need to address.

(vi) Stabroek News, January 26, 2020

In an article published by Stabroek News on January 26, 2020 captioned ‘Don’t approve Payara plan until Exxon improves deal in big’, you are quoted as follows:

We are seeing EPA announce small wins because those are easy. Exxon hasn’t given up much, and that is Exxon gave what it wanted. These small wins, these are easy things for Exxon. We know that we are making progress when we can get the big wins; the increased royalty, a new contract that doesn’t have a stability clause...a generally fairer contract overall.

“It is not just the Stabroek Block but also the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks. Those are things we need to address.

(vii) Bloomberg Post, dated August 13, 2019

In this post on the Bloomberg page with caption “The World’s Newest Petrostate Isn’t Ready for a Tsunami of Cash”, you are quoted as saying:

“There are so many red flags,” Jan Mangal says, looking back at that period. He says the government could have commanded much more favorable tax and royalty rates if the Canje and Kaieteur leases had been sold after Exxon’s Stabroek discovery was announced and not before. “The country could have got 10 or 100 times what it got for these massive, massive blocks,” he says.

(viii) Stabroek News, October 27, 2019

In this letter to the Editor of Stabroek News on October 27, 2019 captioned ‘Justice in awards of oil blocks requires that delinquent officials be prosecuted and applicable awards rescinded’, you state as follows:

For there to be justice for the country and the people, and for wrongs to be corrected, officials must be prosecuted and applicable awards of oil blocks must be rescinded. Subsequent officials who have not addressed these issues may themselves be seen as responsible.

Some of the companies with interests in deep and ultra-deep water oil blocks in Guyana, who did not have track records of producing hundreds of thousands of barrels per day and who did not have billions of US\$ in assets, are listed below.

Canje Block:

Mid-Atlantic Oil & Gas – no website found

JHI – www.jhiassociates.com

Kaieteur Block:

Ratio Energy Ltd, Ratio Guyana Ltd

– www.ratiopetroleum.com

Cataleya Energy Ltd. – no website found

Orinduik Block:

Eco Atlantic – www.ecoilandgas.com

The government officials directly responsible for the awards above were former Minister Robert Persaud and current Minister Raphael Trotman.

(ix) Kaieteur News, July 22, 2019.

In this letter to the Editor captioned ‘They’re trying to discredit my message, but I’m confident about the biggest threat to our future with oil’, you state as follows:

So in summary, it is no surprise that elements from both of the morally decaying and parasitic large political parties, as well as from the international resource exploiters, are challenged by my ideas, and are attempting to discredit the messenger because they feel defenceless against the message.

Please note that Mr Robin Singh only started his accusations after my long efforts to disclose the grand fraud of the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks became international news, and after SARA took an interest in the fraud. Was this because I challenged his PPP friends who awarded these two oil blocks to non-entities?

Please note that even though I am critical of many high-ranking officials in the current Government, I saw for myself how President Granger took numerous positive actions with respect to oil. Also, I am still convinced that the current leadership cabal of the main opposition are a tremendous threat, and the biggest threat, to our future with oil.

Faithfully,
Jan Mangal

(x) Guyana Standard, dated July 15, 2019

In this post on the Guyana Standard page with caption “Political parties yet to prove they can manage oil in the people’s interest”, you are quoted as saying:

We still have to recognise President David Granger for what he has done. He has released contracts and even challenged his ministers on issues surrounding oil. But in the case of the PPP, there is a cabal in the party who, when they were in power, did not release any contracts. They seemed to operate in secrecy; they awarded the

Canje and Kaieteur Blocks to non-entities as if the natural resources belong to them and not the people.

(xi) Kaieteur News, July 14, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News dated July 14, 2019 entitled ‘SARA official’s application for oil block is a clear case of hypocrisy, opportunism’, you made reference to and agreed with a social activist that a Special Assistant of the State Asset Recovery Agency cannot be a party to an application for a petroleum exploration licence or be connected to the people involved, and also be close to an investigation into oil block awards. You went on to state that ‘that no Guyanese has Oil and Gas assets worth billions of US dollars, or experience pumping hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil per day’.

You are then quoted as follows:

By some estimates, for the Liza Phase 1 and the Liza Phase 2 projects alone, the permanent tax holiday for the biggest oil company in the US could cost Guyanese taxpayers some US\$5 billion...Perhaps the people said to be responsible for renegotiating this agreement and who argue strongly against revising it further – Carl Greenidge, Raphael Trotman and Shridath Ramphal – should explain to us why they believe Exxon should have that money and not the Guyanese tax payers who paid their Government salaries.

Hence no Guyanese should be trying to get any of these blocks.

...The local greedy elites have already stolen, are now trying to steal and, will continue to try. Packaging a theft in some colourful pro-African or pro-Indian wrapping paper and bile does not make it valid. It is still a theft from the poor, and will only make the greedy elites filthy rich, and keep the poor, poor.

(xii) Stabroek News, July 9, 2019

In this letter to the Editor of Stabroek News on July 9, 2019 captioned ‘Justice in awards of oil blocks requires that delinquent officials be prosecuted and applicable awards rescinded’, you state as follows:

Blocks must only be awarded via transparent competitive auctions, and to the biggest and best of the international oil companies who have the decades of experience and billions of US\$ of assets to work offshore Guyana. Also, no

Guyanese can legitimately “partner” with any of the major oil companies.

With regard to the recent news that Mr Eric Phillips and others applied for an oil block in 2016. No Guyanese should be applying for Block C, or any oil block. Then there is the additional issue that Mr Phillips started working at SARA in 2017, after he applied for the oil block in 2016. Hopefully he recognised the inappropriateness of his application after he started at SARA in 2017, or during his work on the Canje/Kaieteur issue in 2019. Hopefully his priority is now to protect the current investigation by SARA, and there should be a few options he can consider with respect to his old application or even with respect to his various responsibilities at SARA. Please note I believe there is already sufficient information in the public domain to justify rescinding the Canje and Kaieteur awards.

Although it is good that we now know about this application for an oil block, we also need to recognise that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and GGMC were key players in awarding oil blocks to completely inappropriate companies. For example, the award of the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks in 2015. Also, why did MNR/GGMC entertain the many applications from Guyanese for Block C in 2016? The officials at GGMC knew these Guyanese could do nothing with the blocks, and would only flip the blocks, and thereby defraud the country. GGMC should have rejected all the applications at the time, and should have educated the applicants.

(xiii) Kaieteur News, July 8, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on July 8, 2019 captioned ‘Exxon applies for Canje Licence renewal, to relinquish 20 percent of block’, you are indirectly quoted as follows:

Oil & Gas Consultant, Dr. Jan Mangal, had said that the delay by Government to enforce or activate the relinquishment provisions of the Petroleum Prospecting Licence for the Canje Block exposes just how incompetent it is, or even worse, if this is on purpose.

(xiv) Kaieteur News, July 4, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News dated July 4, 2019 captioned “Royalty will be higher in future contracts –Energy Dept. Head -Consultants stress the need to revise lopsided provisions’, you are quoted as follows:

Although we need future contracts to be more favourable, that is not going to solve the problem. All of the oil might very well end up being in the Stabroek block or in the adjacent Kaieteur and Canje blocks...

We need better royalty for the Stabroek Block and we need to rescind the Kaieteur and Canje blocks that were granted under suspicious circumstances.

(xv) Kaieteur News, June 23, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on June 23, 2019 captioned ‘Delay in enforcing relinquishment provisions for Canje Block exposes Govt’s incompetence– Petroleum Consultant, you are quoted as follows:

We need to be sure that all obligations were met, and appropriate areas relinquished. We need to look in detail at the period during which force majeure was claimed.

“The performance of a detailed review of all obligations and their implementation is a task I highlighted during my tenure as Presidential Advisor.”

I made it clear that that this is an area that the Energy Department needs to be focused on. I also said that we need to go through this with a fine-tooth comb with capable lawyers and be comfortable that all obligations for being in possession of these licences are met.

“If not, the government has grounds to take action...”

(xvi) Kaieteur News, June 16, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on June 16, 2019 captioned ‘Ramotar, Persaud confirm conclusion that Guyana’s oil blocks were stolen –Dr. Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

If you can prove that you maximized value for the country with how you operated with these blocks then fine. But if

you can't, then you have deviated from your role.

The excuses that Persaud and Ramotar have been in negotiations with these people for a long time, that the people behind Mid-Atlantic are good people and they have experience in the industry and so forth are all irrelevant...The theft is blatant. There can be no justification for giving away our wealth for peanuts.

These are not the most important but they are some key questions. The main question remains how can the decision to award these blocks to companies with no experience be the best decision for Guyana? It is obviously not and the officials at the time knew it was not...

(xvii) Youtube Discussion, uploaded June 13, 2019

In this Youtube video, you were interviewed by Mark Benschop with caption “Guyana Oil & Gas- Mark Benschop interview of Jan Mangal (4th Jun 2019)”, you were interviewed by Mr. Mark Benschop. This interview concerned the Exxonmobile deal, and your claims that Guyana got bad deals from oil companies for the Stabroek, Canje and Kaieteur blocks.

...

But they were these two oils blocks just before that were award just before the election in 2015 by the PPP. Now I am convinced that those two awards are clearly fraudulent and corrupt and defrauded Guyana of hundreds of millions and possibly even a billion or more US dollars.

And why do I believe that. Well the first thing you don't go and award a deep water oil block to the guy who lives down the street... but that's what the government did, that's what Robert Persaud did.

...

(xviii) Kaieteur News, June 11, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on June 11, 2019 captioned ‘Advertisements on Canje oil block misleading –Dr. Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

It is highly suspicious and likely illegal for government officials to award oil blocks to companies with no capacity to explore and develop the oil.

And we already know they were stolen, as no servant of the people (i.e. politician) gives away the people's property for nothing to companies that know nothing, as happened just prior to the election in 2015. The objective must be to rescind the blocks so the people of Guyana can see the true value.”

(xix) Kaieteur News, June 7, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on June 7, 2019 captioned ‘Correcting award of oil blocks to unknowns will scare off “exploitative” investors – Dr. Jan Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

The issue before us is an obvious one. Everyone in the industry knows Guyana has been defrauded with the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks. Whenever you see illegitimate companies and individuals being awarded blocks around the world, you know something is wrong. However, those who benefit from this type of fraud will say Guyana should not rescind the blocks and that Guyana will scare away investors (and there are many of these beneficiaries of fraud, outside and inside of Guyana).

The good investors are scared away because they cannot compete with the bad investors. We need to stop attracting sharks and start attracting the good investors. We have to show to the world that we can rescind these blocks and exclude those who were involved, from any future participation.”

So contrary to what the private sector has said, it is quite the opposite. We will not scare off the investors, but will actually attract many more investors who are genuine. If Guyana's probe of these awards -which I am sure robbed Guyana of hundreds of millions and possibly billions of U.S. dollars – is successful, and these awards are rescinded, it will send a positive sign to the international community that Guyana is a rules-based country and that there is a level playing field for investors.

“But if SARA's investigation becomes a political witch-hunt against the PPP, and the awards are not rescinded, then this will be viewed as a complete failure.

(xx) Kaieteur News, June 4, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on June 4, 2019 captioned ‘Guyana likely forfeited US\$100 millions and potentially a billion in signing bonuses for the Kaieteur, Canje blocks–Dr. Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

The way these companies work is that they know years in advance. Exxon did not appear in Guyana overnight... They were planning to drill the wildcat well in Guyana for years before 2015.

“Ratio, Mid-Atlantic, JHI Associates Inc . and others which were either informed indirectly by Exxon or otherwise, would have known about Exxon’s plans.

“You know something very bad has likely happened, and the country was probably robbed by its own officials in cahoots with these non-entities.”

The last government hired companies which had nothing and could do nothing. And when the recent press release from Mid-Atlantic/JHI said they have experience, they have zero experience producing oil in deepwater. “And when they said they can raise capital, that is irrelevant as the government’s role was not to give away our oil for practically nothing to middlemen.”

(xxi) Kaieteur News & Stabroek News, May 27, 2019

In this letter to the Editors of Kaieteur News and Stabroek News captioned ‘Some questions Guyanese must ask in relation to the SARA Inquiry’, and ‘Vital questions in relation to award of Kaieteur, Canje blocks’, respectively, you state as follows:

Regarding the recently disclosed SARA inquiry into the award of the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks, here are five brief questions all Guyanese should want answered publicly and promptly.

- 1) How much was paid for the acreage?
- 2) To whom was it paid?
- 3) When was it paid?
- 4) Who are the beneficial individual equity owners of all of the involved entities, and from award till now?
- 5) How were they chosen to receive the property which was previously the property of all Guyanese citizens?

(xxii) Kaieteur News, May 13, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on May 13, 2019 captioned ‘Because of oil giant’s ‘bad’ history... There must be no secret deals with Govt. officials and Petrobras – Dr. Jan Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

But the way things seem to run in Guyana because of a history of incompetence in all governments is that our officials sit and wait for whoever comes along with a PowerPoint presentation and then they treat it as though it is the best thing since sliced bread

(xxiii) Kaieteur News, April 24, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on April 24, 2019 captioned ‘Energy Dept. unfit to represent Guyana if it can’t stand up to Exxon, others – Dr. Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

The DoE has to be adversarial, since that is how it works across the negotiating table. It needs to be championing a re-negotiation of the Stabroek Block. It needs to hold back on issuing the permits for the Liza Phase Two Project and it need to rescind the award of the Kaieteur and Canje blocks, etc.

The DoE is allowing one company to monopolize Guyana’s offshore acreage, i.e. ExxonMobil. This should not be allowed. Guyana will be further exploited if one company owns too much and ExxonMobil already has too many interests in acreage.

They will all exploit weak countries where government officials care more about their bank accounts, or protecting their jobs, than about representing their people. Total and ExxonMobil farmed in to the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks, and we know these two blocks were most likely ‘stolen’ from the Guyanese people. Hence Total and ExxonMobil are complicit in the issue with these two blocks.

(xxiv) Kaieteur News, April 21, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on April 21, 2019 captioned ‘What happened with Kaieteur, Canje Blocks was daylight robbery – Dr. Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

The issue with the Kaieteur and Canje is one of possible corruption. No country awards these two huge blocks next to a highly prospective block like the Stabroek Block just days before the results of a wildcat well are announced (ie Liza 1), and just days before a general election.

And no country awards these blocks to completely unknown and unqualified companies like Mid-Atlantic and Ratio. If one looks at the evidence from Nigeria, Liberia, etc, what happened in Guyana with the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks was daylight robbery.

The people of Guyana need to become active and take an interest in how their heritage is being squandered. El Dorado has been forfeited before our eyes. And what are we doing about it? Nothing!

(xxv) Kaieteur News, April 16, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on April 16, 2019 captioned ‘Energy Dept. taking incorrect stance on important issues- Should be focused on renegotiation of oil contracts, etc – Dr. Mangal’, you are indirectly quoted as follows:

(Indirect quote) He said, too, that the DoE should be spearheading a move to rescind the awards of the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks, but instead, nothing is being done in this regard.

(xxvi) LinkedIn, dated April 16, 2019

In this post on the LinkedIn page published on April 16, 2019, with caption “Guyana Oil & Gas - The new Department of Energy”, you are published an article in which you stated:

2. In transferring responsibility from MNR to the new DoE, we have to be careful about some of the key people in MNR who are brought over to the DoE. We have to remember that many unacceptable things occurred in the MNR. There was no progress for three years which benefited ExxonMobil and not Guyana, and the Kaieteur and Canje blocks were fraudulently awarded, which also benefited ExxonMobil. Hence there were people in MNR who should have been kept away from the new DoE, but I worry that some of these individuals have not been kept away.

(xxvii) Kaieteur News, January 27, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on January 27, 2019 captioned ‘Fix existing oil contracts; hold off on drafting Model PSA-Dr. Mangal urges’, you are quoted as follows:

All of this talk about new PSAs is really a red herring because there are hardly any blocks left. The only major block out there of interest is Block C, and that is extremely deep water. The previous government awarded the Canje and the Kaieteur Blocks already, as well as others.

“So this talk of ‘Oh well we kind of missed the boat with the Stabroek Block but in the future we will do the PSA so we can get it right with the remaining blocks and do better,’ is really just a red herring.”

This is because all the oil and value for Guyana might end up being in the Stabroek Block or the adjacent blocks already awarded with unfair awful terms.

“So when the government, US state and international bodies like the IMF says let’s focus on getting better agreements in the future, it just does not make sense for Guyana.”

Let’s not waste too much time being distracted with a new model PSA for future agreements (since this is an easy task and not a priority), but instead, let us focus on the existing agreements and revisit those so we can get more value out of those.

(xxviii) Kaieteur News, January 1, 2019

In an article published by Kaieteur News on January 1, 2019 captioned ‘Failure to hold public officials accountable for corruption bad news for oil money– Dr. Mangal’, you are quoted as follows:

Look at how some oil blocks were awarded just prior to the last general election in 2015. Numerous blocks were awarded around the Stabroek Block just prior to Exxon drilling its discovery well in 2015 and these awards are highly suspicious. Countries usually wait for the wild cat well to see if it is positive or negative before they award the blocks around it.”

But it was in Exxon’s interest to get the other blocks removed from the market place for peanuts prior to them drilling and announcing their discovery in the Stabroek

Block.

“However, it is in the country’s interest to hold onto the blocks around the Stabroek Block because Guyana can demand more for the adjacent blocks after oil is found in the Stabroek Block. Guyana lost billions of US dollars by these awards.”

So these awards by the last government are highly suspicious. I believe anticorruption should be a major focus for oil in Guyana. We cannot build this new industry on a weak shabby foundation.

“We have to root out corruption from the oil and gas industry so Guyana can move forward on a solid foundation, so Guyana has a chance to benefit from its oil, and so Guyana can finally develop in a manner that benefits all Guyanese.”

(b) Facebook Posts

(i) Facebook Post, dated September 2, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page dated September 2, 2020, you state that:

The new government will not look out for our interests, and those of the country, with respect to oil.

This is clear, as they brought back Robert Persaud, as well as Carl Greenidge. Please remember who awarded the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks in 2015 and who was rumored to have done the deal with ExxonMobil in 2016 (although Greenidge later denied he was involved, as did Raphael Trotman; so who negotiated in 2016?).

(ii) Facebook Post, dated August 21, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page dated August 21, 2020, you posted a screenshot of the Stabroek News article captioned “Robert Persaud’s appointment raises questions based on past performance- Stabroek News” which featured a picture of Mr. Persaud. You also state that:

Guyana, oil, and the (wrong) direction of the new government.
There is a lot of information in this article.

(iii) Facebook Post, dated August 21, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page with caption “Guyana, oil and the new government”, you accuse the new Government of wanting to make Guyana into another failed oil state. You further state that:

The former Minister of Natural Resources, Robert Persaud, has been brought into the new PPP government. He was responsible for awarding two major blocks adjacent to the Stabroek Block in 2015 just days before his government lost the election, and just days before ExxonMobil announced its first discovery, and he awarded these blocks to Guyanese individuals and non-entities. These are indicators, or red flags, which are associated with the theft of oil blocks in other countries (as uncovered by the international press and Global Witness). No illegality has been proven against Mr Persaud in regard to the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks, but no independent comprehensive investigation has been performed.

From Global Witness: "These two licenses – called Kaieteur and Canje – were awarded by Trotman’s predecessor as Natural Resources Minister: Robert Persaud. Persaud issued the licenses just before leaving office in 2015 and has shown an extraordinary degree of ignorance about the ultimate owners of the winning companies."

(iv) Facebook Post, dated August 21, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page with caption “From the global witness report”, you repeat:

“ These two licenses – called Kaieteur and Canje – were awarded by Trotman’s predecessor as Natural Resources Minister: Robert Persaud. Persaud issued the licenses just before leaving office in 2015 and has shown an extraordinary degree of ignorance about the ultimate owners of the winning companies. “

(v) Facebook Post, dated August 21, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you repeat:

Guyanese would not accept it if this government hired Raphael Trotman.

So why are Guyanese accepting the hiring of Robert Persaud?

He denied the poor people of Guyana US\$100’s Millions with the rash award of the Canje and Kaieteur blocks in 2015.

(vi) Facebook Post, dated August 21, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you posted a screenshot of the Stabroek News article captioned “Robert Persaud’s appointment raises questions based on past performance- Stabroek News” which featured a picture of Mr. Persaud. You also state that:

Robert Persaud has proven he is not good to our future with Oil&Gas. He awarded the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks days before the election in 2015, denying the poor people of Guyana of US\$100 millions and even billions. Why would a government official do such a thing?

(vii) Facebook Post, dated August 20, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a letter addressed to the Editor of Kaieteur News written by Thomas B. Singh captioned “An upstream carbon tax would be entirely with provisions of both Environmental Protection Act and Exxon PSA”. You also state that:

We need PPP supporters to hold the PPP to account.
The PPP are going in the wrong direction, with Alison Redford, with Robert Persaud. This will backfiire.

(viii) Facebook Post, dated August 12, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “UN wants answers for 2016 Exxon deal and SARA corruption probes”. You also quoted:

One case pertinent to the oil sector, which came under SARA’s purview, is the suspicious award of the Kaieteur and Canje blocks just weeks before the 2015 elections by the then President, Donald Ramotar. The suspicious nature of the award was brought sharply into focus when exposed by Kaieteur News. Nothing came of that investigation.

(ix) Facebook Post, dated July 9, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a New Zimbabwe article captioned “Expert warns Zim against contracting “ghostly” diamond mining firms- NewZimbabwe.com”. You also state that:

Suspect similar happened in Guyana with the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks. Plunder of state assets.

(x) Facebook Post, dated July 1, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Finance Uncovered article captioned “Nigeria seizes luxury private jet inked to OPL245 money laundering in Monreal- Finance Uncovered”. You also state that:

Similarities to the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks in Guyana, which were awarded to non-entities days before the election on 2015?

“... As Nigerian oil minister in the last weeks of the corrupt Abacha military regime in 1998, Etete had effectively awarded the prospecting rights to the huge OPL 245 block to a company he secretly controlled, Malabu Oil and Gas. ...”

(xi) Facebook Post, dated June 24, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “Govt. signs away 130 acres of prime East Coast lands in a day”. You also state that:

Theft of state assets. This lot have proved themselves to be thieves, stealing from the poor people of Guyana. Same like with the Canje and Kaieteur oil blocks.
This has to be corrected.

(xii) Facebook Post, dated February 3, 2020

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared an image captioned “PPP HYPOCRISY”, which contained the following allegations:

- (a) Former President Donald Ramotar admits under oath that his PPP administration signed four deals with oil companies in 2015 that had “NO TRACK RECORD” in oil exploration
- (b) Bharrat Jadgeo admitted, on Thursday, that the PPP Administration was “liberal” with its GIVEAWAY OF OIL BLOCKS just days before the 2015 General and Regional Elections
- (c) FACTS: If Parliament was prorogued in November 2014, what was the legal basis on which these contracts were signed in 2015 by the PPP government?

You also state that:

We must not lose sight of the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks. I believe the image is from a political campaigner, but that is not my objective. The image is useful in reminding us about the frauds against the Guyanese people in the form of the Canje and Kaieteur awards.

(xiii) Facebook Post, dated October 3, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a post captioned “Guyana Oil & Gas”, where you state:

A recent note to an investment firm regarding the large oil companies in Guyana.

"...

It [Guyana] has huge upside but also increases risk; makes them vulnerable to a single country.

ExxonMobil can take some blows from Guyana, but Hess Corporation less so.

They can have a bright future in Guyana but not under the current fiscal arrangements, which are not equitable nor sustainable.

There is a risk that Exxon, Hess and CNOOC will start meddling in local politics and undermining democratic institutions (they are already doing this via proxies [farm-ins to the Canje/Kaieteur Blocks]), so as to secure their commercial position. They have all been burnt in other countries doing this, and eventually the same will happen in Guyana.

For me, it is amazing that these companies have not learnt from all their mistakes, and cannot even contemplate more of a "win-win" path (more equitable and sustainable deals). But no, their strategy is one of "slash and burn", especially Exxon.

..."

#GuyanaOilGas

#GetGuyanaReady

Follow me on Twitter:

@JanMangal266

Follow me on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1X5a6aAicoJrZnqfvLSjew>

(xiv) Facebook Post, dated September 16, 2019

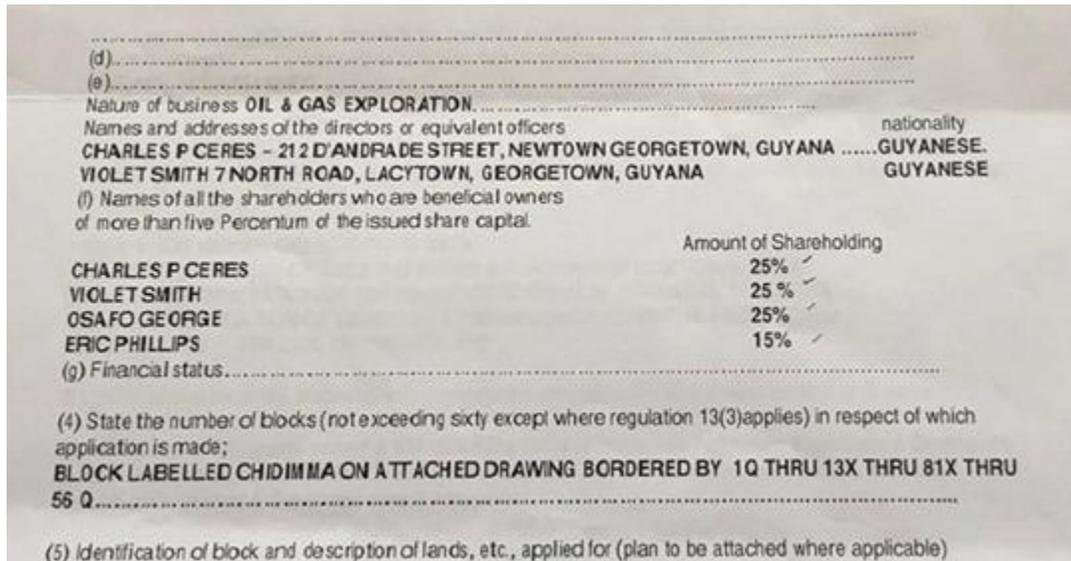
In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a post captioned “Guyana Oil & Gas”, where you state that there is a discussion on Local Content (LC) this Wednesday 18th September on Globespan24x7, with LC expert Tony Paul:

The impact of good LC will be minimal compared to the impact of getting a fair deal for Guyana and spending the revenue properly. We are forfeiting over USD30 billion just on the Stabroek Block, and billions on the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks. LC is very small in comparison.

And the LC frenzy right now is a good way to create a distraction from the more important issues (such as rebalancing of the contracts, rescinding of the Canje/Kaieteur Blocks, etc).

(xv) Facebook Post, dated July 7, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared the following screenshot, and captioned the post “Going from very bad to crazy:



(xvi) Facebook Post, dated July 7, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a post captioned “Guyana Oil & Gas”, you state:

How will President Granger prove to Guyanese that he has their interest at heart?
 Will he rescind the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks?
 Will he come down hard on the chancers in the news today, and the criminals who awarded the two blocks in 2015, and send a strong message to all the other chancers out there.

Might he do nothing and thereby condon the theft of our oil partrimony?

(xvii) Facebook Post, dated June 25, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “Guyana-Exxonmobil PSA has the most unusual decommissioning provisions- Must be urgently corrected in all contracts- University of Houston Instructor”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also state that:

Will the cabal which leads the PPP stand up for Guyana and insist on up to 20% royalty, and insist that Exxon pays taxes like every citizen in Guyana? No they will not. They already stole the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks from the people, so why would they do anything to benefit the people? They first need to start redeeming themselves by calling for the Canje/Kaieteur awards to be rescinded. Calling for an "international investigation" is a cheap trick. We do not need an investigation as we already know the blocks were awarded to non-entities. They just need to be rescinded to the people. Simple!

....

Will the Coalition stand up for Guyana and correct the theft of the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks, by immediately rescinding these two awards? This is an easy win for the Coalition, and would prove to the people that the Coalition can take on corrupt politicians and international bullies, and that they can serve the people of Guyana.

(xviii) Facebook Post, dated June 17, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News Peeping Tom column captioned “Oil don’t spoil”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also quoted:

"...

What Guyana needs is to put a pause on oil development and begin a thorough investigation into who got what, was paid and what was done to those blocks subsequent to them being signed over to others. The oil within the Stabroek, Canje and Kaieteur blocks is not going anywhere.

...

Guyana is not going to lose therefore it should place a one-year moratorium on all oil exploration and production, pending an independent and impartial investigation into the distribution of these blocks.

(xix) Facebook Post, dated June 10, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “Robert Persaud fails to explain why industry unknowns were granted oil blocks”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas, Canje and Kaieteur Blocks”. You also stated:

Former Minister of Natural Resources fails to explain why industry unknowns with zero capability were granted oil blocks.

And there is no way to justify this.

How can you justify forfeiting US\$100's or billions of the people's money?

And if The Canje and Kaieteur Blocks end up having say 5 billion barrels of oil, then these illegal awards could have stolen about US\$50 billion of tax payers money.

This is a clear injustice.

And look at those who are supporting these awards (of all political stripes), are they not the elites who have done nothing for this country, and continue to keep us back?

#GuyanaOilGas

#GetGuyanaReady

Please follow on Twitter - @JanMangal266

(xx) Facebook Post, dated June 3, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Global Witness article captioned “BBC expose on \$10bn deal shows BP may have been complicit in corruption | Global Witness”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also stated:

Guyanese please take note. This is how it works, and similar most likely happened in Guyana so as to defraud the people of vast sums of money.

Who were the local players in the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks, and with which officials (past and present) did they have relationships?

#GuyanaOilGas

#GetGuyanaReady

Please follow on Twitter - @JanMangal266

(xxi) Facebook Post, dated June 3, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News article screenshot captioned “Canje, Kaiteur Blocks awarded to four companies with no financial wherewithal for exploration”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also stated:

Guyanese need to wake up, else say goodbye to the oil wealth.
#GuyanaOilGas
#GetGuyanaReady
Please follow on Twitter - @JanMangal266

(xxii) Facebook Post, dated June 1, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “Ramotar misled the nation... PPP knew oil was found when it signed away Kaieteur, Canje blocks days before elections”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also quoted extracts of your previous statements:

"...

Dr. Jan Mangal has been speaking about the suspicious award of the oil blocks for some time.

..."

Actually, I have been pursuing this since 2017. I recall telling ExxonMobil in one of my meetings with them that I believed they used Mid-Atlantic, Ratio, etc, as their proxies, to do their dirty work for them.

There is already sufficient evidence in the public domain for President Granger to rescind the Kaieteur and Canje awards. Going after officials is not the objective. The objective is purely to earn Guyana the US\$100s of millions and potentially US\$ billions that were lost by these two awards. The blocks need to be taken back, split up into smaller blocks, and auctioned off properly. And all those who have had interests in these blocks must be banned from participating in anyway in these blocks for the next 10 years (including ExxonMobil, Hess, etc).

#GuyanaOilGas

#GetGuyanaReady

Please follow on Twitter - @JanMangal266

(xxiii) Facebook Post, dated May 22, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Bloomberg article captioned “Guyana Probes Offshore Oil Leases Controlled by Exxon, Tullow”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also state:

A good development.

The rescinding of the awards of the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks can be an easy win for Guyana, but success will be difficult.

This could quickly become a whitewash.

SARA and Dr Clive Thomas will need help and support.

#GuyanaOilGas
#GetGuyanaReady
Please follow on Twitter - @JanMangal266

(xxiv) Facebook Post, dated May 14, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a West Mount- West Mount Energy Ltd. article, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also state:

Regarding the highly anomalous, and I believe illegal, awards of the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks, to individuals and small unknown companies with zero track record producing oil, and no assets. We need to keep an eye on a new company called Westmount Energy Ltd, who are investing in Cataleya, Eco, Ratio and JHI. Who are the beneficial owners of Westmount? If you have any information please contact myself. Possible links to a small boutique investment bank in London, and then to some people in Guyana? Please see two links below.

#GuyanaOilGas
#GetGuyanaReady
Please follow on Twitter - @JanMangal266
<https://www.morningstar.co.uk/.../westmount-energy...>
<https://www.westmountenergy.com/investment-portfolio/>

(xxv) Facebook Post, dated February 26, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “SARA files civil suits against Jagdeo, six others over ‘Pradoville 2’ land”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas, Elections & Politics, and the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks”. You also state:

....

Another much more important issue for Guyanese people is the highly anomalous awards of the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks by the former Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Robert Persaud (who is named in this article; Kaieteur on 28-Apr-2015 and Canje on 04-Mar-2015). These blocks should never have been awarded just prior to Exxon announcing its Liza 1 discovery. Guyana lost US\$ 100 Millions and possibly US\$ Billions by these secret awards. Exxon knew it had a good well weeks before making its announcement in May-2015, hence it was in Exxon's interests for those blocks (adjacent to Stabroek) to be taken off the market for peanuts. And it seems our politicians at the time were quite happy to defraud the people of Guyana so as to benefit Exxon.

But why has the current coalition government not pursued this matter? Are they also involved?

(c) Twitter Posts:

(i) Twitter Post, dated September 16, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Kaieteur News Editorial captioned “Local leaders and foreign companies dealing”, where you republished by directly quoting:

"In Guyana, the rich Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks raise such concerns. That is, politicians used a pass through business as shelter for potential siphoning off and wrongdoing with our oil in partnership with foreigners."

(ii) Twitter Post, dated September 9, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you stated:

2. Robert Persaud [fmr minister] quietly awarded the Canje/Kaieteur oil blocks to non-entities in 2015 days before his party lost the election, and then ExxonMobil quickly bought into these two blocks (and is now in control).

(iii) Twitter Post, dated September 9, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you stated:

3. The deserving people of Guyana lost US\$100's million and even billions by these two awards, by this forfeiture of our natural resource wealth.

(iv) Twitter Post, dated September 9, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you stated:

5. Time is on our side. Do not believe those who want us to think otherwise. And afterwards we can rescind the awards of the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks.

(v) Twitter Post, dated August 26, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you stated:

This is even more reason to break the monopoly which was created by the highly controversial (and I believe likely fraudulent) award of the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks to non-entities just days before @exxonmobil announced the discovery in 2015.

(vi) Twitter Post, dated August 26, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you stated:

@exxonmobil quickly farmed in to those two adjacent blocks. These two awards should be rescinded, all expenses reimbursed, and the blocks properly auctioned off in a transparent manner (to get other major operators into Guyana, and create competition between the operators).

(vii) Twitter Post, dated July 18, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you state:

I advised the president to rescind the PPP fraudulent awards of the Canje and Kaieteur blocks, but what did Dr Clive Thomas do at SARA? Seems to have done nothing! This could have been a big political win for the Coalition and win for the country, but “corn may have shared”.

(viii) Twitter Post, dated July 9, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Twitter post from Charles Young, who stated:

#Zimbabwe warned against contracting “ghostly” #diamond mining firms. Shadowy mining firms are increasingly gaining popularity across the continent as ruling party elites took them as avenues to secure election funding. <http://bit.ly/3f9aJ6F> @Ckkabem

You then drew a parallel to Mr. Robert Persaud where you state:

Suspect similar happened in Guyana with the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks.

(ix) Twitter Post, dated July 1, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Twitter post from Kleptocracy Initiative, who stated:

Nigeria has tracked down and grounded the luxury private jet purchased by its former oil minister Dan Etete with some of the alleged proceeds of the notorious \$1.3 billion OPL245 oil deal. <https://financeuncovered.org/investigations/nigeria-seizes-luxury-private-jet-linked-to-opl245-money-laundering-in-montreal/>

You then drew a parallel to Mr. Robert Persaud where you state:

Similarities to the Kaieteur/Canje Blocks in Guyana? “As Nigerian oil minister in the last weeks of the corrupt Abacha military regime in 1998, Etete had effectively awarded the prospecting rights to the huge OPL 245 block to a company he secretly controlled, Malabu Oil and Gas.”

(x) Twitter Post, dated July 1, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Twitter post from Kleptocracy Initiative, who stated:

Nigeria has tracked down and grounded the luxury private jet purchased by its former oil minister Dan Etete with some of the alleged proceeds of the notorious \$1.3 billion OPL245 oil deal. <https://financeuncovered.org/investigations/nigeria-seizes-luxury-private-jet-linked-to-opl245-money-laundering-in-montreal/>

You then drew a parallel to Mr. Robert Persaud where you state:

Regarding the Canje and Kaieteur oil blocks in Guyana These original award and all subsequent farm-ins should be rescinded. Current court case, lawyer questioning former president Ramotar, see additional tweets:

(xi) Twitter Post, dated May 22, 2019

In this post on your Facebook page, you shared a Bloomberg article captioned “Guyana Probes Offshore Oil Leases Controlled by Exxon, Tullow”, with your caption “Guyana Oil & Gas”. You also state:

A good development.
The rescinding of the awards of the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks can be an easy win for Guyana, but success will be difficult.
This could quickly become a whitewash.
SARA and Dr Clive Thomas will need help and support.
#GuyanaOilGas
#GetGuyanaReady
Please follow on Twitter - @JanMangal266

(xii) Twitter Post, dated January 29, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “Lawsuit over oil blocks give away... Former Pres. Ramotar admits companies had no exploratory experience prior to signing deals”, where you state:

Regarding the Canje and Kaieteur oil blocks in Guyana These original award and all subsequent farm-ins should be rescinded. Current court case, lawyer questioning former president Ramotar, see additional tweets:

(xiii) Twitter Post, dated January 29, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, where you quoted:

“In relation to all the companies (Mid Atlantic Oil and Gas Inc., Ratio Energy, Ratio Guyana and JHI Associates) were you aware whether any of them had any successful exploratory experience?”

(xiv) Twitter Post, dated January 29, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, where you quoted:

“I don’t have any information of them directly but as I mentioned, I was advised that these were companies,” Ramotar maintained.

(xv) Twitter Post, dated January 28, 2020

In this post on your Twitter page, where you state:

And farming into the Canje and Kaieteur blocks was downright reckless, when these blocks were clearly awarded to non-entities (individuals) with close local ties.

(xvi) Twitter Post, dated October 3, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you state:

There is a risk that Exxon, Hess and CNOOC will start meddling in local politics and undermining democratic institutions (they are already doing this via proxies [farm-ins to the Canje/Kaieteur Blocks]), so as to secure their commercial position.

(xvii) Twitter Post, dated September 16, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you state:

The impact of good LC will be minimal compared to the impact of getting a fair deal for Guyana and spending the revenue properly. We are forfeiting over USD30 billion just on the Stabroek Block, and billions on the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks. LC is very small in comparison

(xviii) Twitter Post, dated September 16, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you state:

And the LC frenzy right now is a good way to create a distraction from the more important issues (such as rebalancing of the contracts, rescinding of the Canje/Kaieteur Blocks, etc).

(xix) Twitter Post, dated August 25, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you state:

Excellent cartoon. So what have we done? Have we rescinded the two blatantly fraudulent awards of massive oil blocks (Canje and Kaieteur)? Have we hired the dozens of highly qualified international oil professionals and setup the institutions?

(xx) Twitter Post, dated August 25, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you referenced the following cartoon:



You then state:

Excellent cartoon. So what have we done? Have we rescinded the two blatantly fraudulent awards of massive oil blocks (Canje and Kaieteur)? Have we hired the dozens of highly qualified international oil professionals and setup the institutions?

(xxi) Twitter Post, dated July 27, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you state:

Might the next government in Guyana be using the Chinese to suppress the Guyanese people once we finally wake up and demand the thefts be corrected (Canje/Kaieteur Blocks) and demand a fair deal on the Stabroek Block? Remember the Chinese are a partner in Stabroek Block.

(xxii) Twitter Post, dated July 4, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you state:

They already have many stooges in Guyana. Why else would government officials give away the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks to non-entities with zero assets and zero track record? Why else would government officials give away US\$60 - 20 billion on the Stabroek Block?

(xxiii) Twitter Post, dated June 20, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “BP scandal in Senegal reminiscent of what took place in Guyana days before 2015 elections–Goolsarran”, where you state:

like the Senegalese government, the PPP Administration granted exploration licences to four unknown companies – JHI Associates Inc., Mid-Atlantic Oil and Gas Inc. (MOGI), Ratio Energy Ltd. and Ratio Guyana Ltd. – in the Kaieteur and Canje blocks

(xxiv) Twitter Post, dated May 29, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Stabroek News article captioned “Vital questions in relation to award of Kaieteur, Canje blocks- Stabroek News”, where you state:

On the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks in Guyana. Some questions all Guyanese should want answered publicly and promptly.
#GuyanaOilGas #GetGuyanaReady

(xxv) Twitter Post, dated June 10, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you state:

And if The Canje and Kaieteur Blocks end up having say 5 billion barrels of oil, then these illegal awards could have stolen about US\$50 billion of tax payers money. This is a clear injustice.

(xxvi) Twitter Post, dated June 7, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you state:

We have to show to the world that we can rescind these blocks (Canje & Kaieteur) and exclude those who were involved, from any future participation.

(xxvii) Twitter Post, dated June 3, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you state:

ExxonMobil is the operator of the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks, and Hess also bought in to the Kaieteur Block.
@exxonmobil

@HessCorporation

(xxviii) Twitter Post, dated June 3, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Global Witness article captioned “BBC expose on \$10bn deal shows BP may have been complicit in corruption- Global Witness”, where you state:

Similar most likely happened in Guyana so as to defraud the people of vast sums of money. Who were the local players in the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks, and with which officials (past and present) did they have relationships?

#GuyanaOilGas

#GetGuyanaReady

(xxix) Twitter Post, dated May 29, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Stabroek News letter captioned “Vital questions in relation to award of Kaieteur, Canje blocks- Stabroek News”, where you state:

On the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks in Guyana. Some questions all Guyanese should want answered publicly and promptly.

#GuyanaOilGas

#GetGuyanaReady

(xxx) Twitter Post, dated May 22, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Bloomberg article captioned “Guyana probes Offshore Oil Leases Controlled by Exxon, Tullow”, where you state:

A good development. The rescinding of the awards of the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks can be an easy win for Guyana, but success will be difficult. This could quickly become a whitewash. SARA will need help.

#GuyanaOilGas

#GetGuyanaReady

(xxxi) Twitter Post, dated May 14, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you state:

Regarding the highly anomalous, and I believe illegal, awards of the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks, to individuals and small unknown companies with zero track record producing oil, and no assets.
#GuyanaOilGas
#GetGuyanaReady

(xxxii) Twitter Post, dated April 22, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you shared a Kaieteur News article captioned “What happened with Kaieteur, Canje Blocks was daylight robbery- Dr. Mangal”, where you republished your own words:

Dr. Mangal added, “no country awards these blocks to completely unknown and unqualified companies ... what happened in Guyana with the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks was daylight robbery.”
#GuyanaOilGas
#GetGuyanaReady

(xxxiii) Twitter Post, dated March 4, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you republished the following words:

.. he awarded the Canje and Kaieteur Blocks for next to nothing. These awards only benefit the foreign oil companies and their local agents/beneficiaries, and not the people of Guyana. ..

(xxxiv) Twitter Post, dated February 26, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you state:

Another much more important issue for Guyanese people is the highly anomalous awards of the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks by the former Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Robert Persaud (who is named in this article; Kaieteur on 28-Apr-2015 and Canje on 04-Mar-2015).

(xxxv) Twitter Post, dated February 26, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, where you referenced the following screenshot:



Jan K Mangal

18 mins · 🌐 ▼

Guyana Oil & Gas

Elections & Politics, and the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks

Bringing cases like this and securing convictions is the only possible trump card remaining for the current government.

Another much more important issue for Guyanese people is the highly anomalous awards of the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks by the former Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Robert Persaud (who is named in this article; Kaieteur on 28-Apr-2015 and Canje on 04-Mar-2015). These blocks should never have been awarded just prior to Exxon announcing its Liza 1 discovery. Guyana lost US\$ 100 Millions and possibly US\$ Billions by these secret awards. Exxon knew it had a good well weeks before making its announcement in May-2015, hence it was in Exxon's interests for those blocks (adjacent to Stabroek) to be taken off the market for peanuts. And it seems our politicians at the time were quite happy to defraud the people of Guyana so as to benefit Exxon.

But why has the current coalition government not pursued this matter? Are they also involved?

[#GuyanaOilGas](#)

[#GetGuyanaReady](#)

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You state:

Guyana, Elections & Politics, and the Kaieteur and Canje Blocks. Bringing cases like this and securing convictions is the only possible trump card remaining for the current government. See comments for remainder of tweet.

[#GuyanaOilGas](#)

[#GetGuyanaReady](#)

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2019/02/26/news/guyana/sara-files-civil-suits-against-jagdeo-six-others-over-pradoville-2-land/>

(xxxvi) Twitter Post, dated January 29, 2019

In this post on your Twitter page, you state:

All of this talk about new PSAs is really a red herring because there are hardly any blocks left. The only major block out there of interest is Block C.... The previous government awarded the Canje and the Kaieteur Blocks already, as well as others.

C. The Defamatory and Injurious nature of your allegations in the aforesaid Publications

The aforesaid publications, republications, direct statements, and comparative articles, when read together, are clearly defamatory and injurious to our client, intentionally motivated by malice, designed to destroy our client's good name.

Your statements are untrue and constitute an entire fabrication in relation to your allegations of fraud in the award of the Canje and Kaieteur blocks. The awards of the said blocks were done in a transparent and legal process, and were done by the former President, then Minister of Petroleum, contrary to your claims that it was our client who made the said awards. At no time was our client responsible for the awarding of the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks, a fact that you would be privy to during your tenure as the former Advisor to former President David Granger.

These statements impugn the reputation, goodwill and basic integrity of our client, and constitute actionable libel per se. This statement is blatantly false and maliciously designed to injure our client's good name. In the context of Guyana's society, particularly in the context of the emerging oil industry and the accompanying controversial atmosphere that has pervaded the minds of the average person in Guyana, the average reader would believe that it was Mr. Persaud who was the person who made the awards, which is proven to be untrue, and that the said awards were done contrary to the laws of Guyana, leading to the conclusion that the awards were fraudulent and illegal.

Moreover, you sought to juxtapose comparisons of other articles pertaining to alleged acts of corruption in the oil industry with the awards of the Kaieteur and Canje oil blocks which you claimed were done by our client, which implied and implies that our client is directly responsible for the alleged 'giveaway' of oil blocks. This is viewed worldwide with suspicion due to the nature of the oil industry, and in which it is viewed in Guyana's society, the average reader would assume that our client has been engaging in clandestine and corrupt activities, is at the very least unprofessional and inept, and/or the most corrupt, colluding with or being overpowered by the principals of the two companies which were granted the awards to the detriment of the Guyanese taxpayers, and is therefore against transparency, a position which is simply false.

In some instances, despite not referring to our client by name, in the context of your previous publications outlined in this letter where you accuse our client of awarding the Kaieteur and Canje awards of oil blocks via fraudulent and corrupt means, the fact that our client was the

then Minister of Natural Resources, the average reader would understand that the allegations in your publications to refer to our client, thus causing embarrassment and emotional distress.

D. The Claim and Corresponding Demands for a Retraction and an Apology

As outlined above, your publications, republications, direct statements, and comparative articles, when read together are clearly defamatory and injurious to our client, intentionally motivated by malice, designed to destroy our client's good name. Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of the Defamation Act and the common law, our client intends to pursue all remedies available to him, including, but not limited to, monetary damages for actual damages caused by your defamatory statements in the amount of at least US\$2,000,000.00 (G\$430,000,000.00), plus costs and attorneys' fees which could well exceed US\$100,000 (G\$21,500,000), unless you immediately retract your statements and withdraw your publications and republications, and issue an apology as mutually agreed, which is to be published with the same prominence and frequency as the Articles.

Specifically, with respect to your Facebook and Twitter publications, we have also been instructed to pursue all civil and criminal remedies provided by the Cyber Crime Act 2018 (the "Act"), unless the defamatory posts are immediately removed.

We also demand that you immediately **cease and desist** from further defaming our client, and have been instructed that should you not refrain from doing so, to commence immediate action to restrain you from doing so.

This letter is sent subject to our client's reservation of all rights and for purposes of settlement only. We look forward to an immediate response complying with our demands, failing which we will have no choice but to take all necessary action.

Please be guided accordingly

Sincerely,

LONDON HOUSE CHAMBERS



By: Devindra Kissoon

cc: The Editor (via Hand and E-Mail)
Kaieteur News

The Editor (via Hand and E-Mail)
Stabroek News