



## Message of

*His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Minister of Defence, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Guyana Defence Force.*

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana today marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Guyana Defence Force on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1965. The Nation is eternally grateful to the men and women who serve with commitment, constancy and courage in the Defence Force which came into being at the time that Guyana was about to gain its Independence.

The Guyana Defence Force has a duty under the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana “...to defend national independence, preserve the country’s sovereignty and integrity and guarantee the normal functioning of institutions and the security of citizens against any armed aggression.”

We are confident that the Defence Force in the future, as in the past, will always honour and uphold the *Constitution* and fulfill its obligations. We are encouraged by the extraordinary example and eternal vigilance evinced by the Force. We are assured by the unstinting and steadfast service of our soldiers. We are inspired by the Force’s values – Discipline, Duty, Identity, Integrity and Loyalty – which continue to guide our men and women in uniform in their daily lives.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Defence Force finds us further along the road to consolidating our defence, reaffirming our democracy, protecting our territory and making Guyana a safer place for all.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our soldiers and veterans for fifty years of service, selflessness and sacrifice. We salute the Guyana Defence Force on this happy occasion.

May God bless you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Granger".

David Granger, MSS, MSM, MEM  
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

30<sup>th</sup> October 2015