

28 May 2020

Mr. Louis Crawford
Registrar-General
General Register Office
Guyana Post Office Building
Robb Street
Georgetown
Guyana

Dear Sir,

**RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF DEATH
CERTIFICATE OF CHITNANDANI RAMDASS**

I am writing on behalf of my client, Mr. Puran Manbode, who is the son and intended legal representative of the estate of the late Ms. Chitnandani Ramdass.

My client, Mr. Manbode, has observed that a death certificate bearing his mother's name has been circulating widely and prominently in the media in recent weeks. Accompanying this circulation is a claim that his mother voted in the 2020 General and Regional Elections in Guyana held on 2 March, 2020. This claim has been debunked, as it was later shown that his mother's name was not ticked off on the list as a voter during these elections.

Despite this, it has not stopped political agents of APNU/AFC from distributing his mother's death certificate to the media, where it has been widely published online and shared on several social media pages, thus exponentially increasing the viewership of his mother's death certificate.

Thousands of people have now seen his mother's name being paraded ignominiously online, as well as personal details of her death and cause of her death endorsed on the death certificate. Since the cause of her death also poses hereditary risks for her family, there are further concerns that the family's personal genetic risk factors are now public knowledge.

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Glenn Hanoman (Managing Attorney) | Rexford L. Jackson | Joshua Abdool

The more immediate concern however, is that the family of the deceased has since had to endure an intolerably difficult and personally humiliating past few weeks. Wherever the family goes, they are met with abuse and scorn and levelled with accusations of fraud. Once again, this is despite it being shown, upon inspection of the list, that his deceased mother never actually voted.

The reason this letter is being written to you is that the said death certificate being paraded ignominiously online was recorded as having been issued under your hand on 30 January, 2020. As such you are the first person on record as having issued the death certificate without the knowledge or consent of the deceased's next of kin.

Pursuant to subsections 33 (1) and 33 (5) of the Access to Information Act, 2011, documents are exempt from disclosure if its disclosure would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information in relation to the personal affairs of a deceased person. In the case of a deceased person, the next-of-kin is the person entitled to give consent to the disclosure of the document.

My office has also been contacted by the families of other deceased persons whose names have been either posted online or released to the press by APNU/AFC personnel as 'dead voters'. In all these cases, it was later shown that none of these people actually voted, upon inspection of the list.

As such, there seems to be a worrying pattern of deceased persons' names being recklessly, wildly, and wantonly cited by APNU/AFC agents as 'dead voters', with no regard to the societal repercussions which may ensue to the family members of the deceased, even after these deceased persons have been shown, upon inspection of the list, to have never actually voted.

The families of the deceased are not political actors, but are private citizens, and have no desire to participate in any political confrontations, or suffer any ensuing scorn. Their grievances over the loss of their family members have sadly been compounded by having unfairly been thrust in an undignified manner into the public spotlight.

In many of these cases, these death certificates have been issued under your hand in the early months of 2020.

As such, we are respectfully requesting the following information from you:

- 1) Copies of the application form requesting the release of the death certificate of my client's mother.
- 2) Information on the identity of the person or persons requesting the release of the death certificate of my client's mother.
- 3) Copies of the receipt of payment of \$300 application fee for the death certificate of my client's mother.

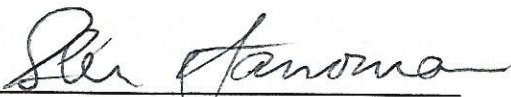
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We would appreciate your co-operation in this process. It is our preference to settle this matter amicably upon receipt of the said information. However, if you fail to respond within seven (7) days of the receipt of this letter, we will be forced to initiate legal action against you.

We look forward to your co-operation in this matter. Thank you.

Yours Faithfully,



Glenn Hanoman

Managing Attorney | Templar Chambers