

Minister Lackin - We know our responsibilities

Suriname's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston G. Lackin, said on Saturday March 24, that Suriname is still in the midst of a process of transformation. In the wake of a period of colonization, former colonies all over the world struggle with finding solutions to adequately address internal tensions.

We know our history. Suriname is a unique multi-ethnic society in which the influence of the ex-colonizer is still strongly manifest in all sections of society. This reality lead to tensions and subsequent social upheaval, starting in 1975 with Suriname's independence and culminating on the 25th of February 1980 in a revolution.

From that date on, Suriname had to deal with various aspects of popular uprising, economic strains and actions originating from foreign sources, impacting directly on national security and development. That is the complex situation that Suriname was caught up in, and continues still today. Analyzing the adverse aspects associated with a young democratic republic on its way to nation building, it is obvious that some members of the international community often do not realize the adverse effects of a transition process.

Foreign Minister Lackin further mentions the fact that many other countries' independence processes have lasted for more than two centuries before finally finding the right path through a process of failures and successes. Suriname has started this process only in 1975. Since then the economic situation of the country has been exploited to continue to serve as a supplier of only raw materials, not leaving the opportunity to address the just aspirations of its people to choose their own destiny leading to peace, security and sustainable development. It is known that these are issues that are always related to time.

At this moment in time, where the international community is threatened to be dragged by the media in a biased coverage, Minister Lackin, responding to the legislative proposal to amend the existing Amnesty Law of August 1992, covering a larger period than earlier provided for, stated: We are fully cognizant of our responsibilities in a constitutional state. Art 72, par. g of our constitution explicitly states that one of authorities of the National Assembly, is to enact laws dealing with matters related to amnesty. The National Assembly thus has the legal authority to take decisions about elements of our democratic institutions, such as amnesty. The legislative body, therefore, is acting in consistency with the constitution.