

A tribute to the late George Singh; Recollections of a grateful man

Richard Hulse
Reporter correspondent

George Bawa Singh succumbed to cancer during the early hours of Tuesday, after a prolonged struggle. He was a man of wit and humour who interspersed his conversation with bouts of jesting and harmless cajoling. He believed in the institution of family and the importance of the family structure.

I remember as a child, when I first came in contact with his family, I was not treated as an outsider, but accepted as if I were one of their very own.

Being a total outsider, I know of the bounty, and the love of this outstanding family from first-hand experience. My first encounter with the literary world began at the home of the Singhs. I started by paging through the family's encyclopedia, and this experience inspired me to make something of my own life. Mrs. Ruth Singh was a tower of strength.

As a child I regarded Judge Singh as somewhat aloof - dignified, but aloof. In time I came to realize that he had a heart of gold. He instilled in me the idea that I was somebody and that I could make something of my life; that the

for me. Indeed, his is the only family I know, and I look upon him as a patriarch, my mentor and a man of great wisdom and forbearance.

Justice Singh was also a very private man. He shied away from publicity, but he had a mind of his own and never turned away from difficult decisions. On the bench he was a formidable figure, with his keen mind and his no-nonsense approach to justice.

Justice Singh lived a fruitful and exemplary life. His legacy of greatness as a family man and as a distinguished jurist will certainly live on.

His greatest contribution to Belize perhaps, will be his legacy to the Belize Family Court. Many a child would be going to bed hungry at night, if it were not for his caring vigilance to make the Belize Family Court responsive to the needs of these young ones who cannot fend for themselves.

I will always call him my father and friend. Rest in peace my dear friend.

Audubon Society calls for study of all energy options

The Belize Audubon Society issued a press release late Thursday evening giving its views on the move by Government and the Belize Electricity Limited to build a second hydroelectric dam to generate energy.

The release states: "The Belize Audubon Society notes that the last analysis of options for the generation of electricity was conducted approximately nine years ago. In addition to hydroelectric energy, these options include co-generation of electricity for sugarcane bagasse, citrus peel and others.

"In keeping with its mission of promoting the sustainable use of our natural resources for the development of our nation, and after research and consultations with key people in the industry, the business sector and the environmental community, the Society proposes the following:

"1. The formulation of a long-term comprehensive Energy Policy for Belize, which will aim to reduce its dependence on the

importation of fossil fuels and energy. This policy must take into consideration, the proper and responsible use of the natural resources of Belize and weigh all the options available for generating power.

"2. The Government of Belize should conduct a vigorous and comprehensive review of all the options for generating energy from renewable sources.

"3. A complete Environmental Impact Assessment, in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act of 1992, must be conducted for whichever option is deemed viable before the option is undertaken.

"The Belize Audubon Society stands ready to collaborate with the public and private sector and civil society in organizing a national forum on renewable energy sources. We invite the general public to review our Working Document on the Renewable Energy Generation Options for Belize."