

Ambassador Dr. Samuel Rudolph Insanally (1936 – 2023)
A Memorial Tribute from the Institute of International Relations



Figure 1 Mr. Samuel Rudolph 'Rudy' Insanally

The Institute of International Relations (IIR) at The University of the West Indies (UWI) mourns the loss of Ambassador Dr. Samuel Rudolph Insanally, one of Guyana's most renowned diplomats and a highly esteemed international statesman, whose impact resonated across Guyana, the Caribbean, and beyond. His life, dedicated to diplomacy and particularly for advocating the cause of small states, is exemplar of achieving greatness through discipline, hard work, and integrity. His recent passing on Thursday November 23rd, 2023 marks the end of an era and has left a profound void in the realms of diplomacy and academia that will be felt across the international community.

Dr. Insanally's illustrious career spanned various roles, establishing him as a luminary in Caribbean diplomacy, practicum, and scholarship. From his tenure as diplomatic representation for Guyana across multiple countries, to his leadership positions within the United Nations, Dr. Insanally's influence was both far-reaching and deeply impactful. His diplomatic journey began as Counselor at Guyana's Embassy to the United States from 1966 to 1969, followed by pivotal roles as Chargé D'affaires in Venezuela in 1970 and as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations from 1972. In that same year, he returned as Ambassador to Venezuela, representing Guyana in additional capacities across Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Concurrently from 1972 to 1978, he worked with several regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community, the Organization of American States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the Latin American Economic System.

Dr. Insanally's contribution to the diplomatic landscape also extended well beyond the Caribbean and Latin America, encompassing key roles in chairmanships and negotiations in various extra-regional bodies. Transitioning to Europe in 1981, he held the esteemed positions of Permanent Representative to the European Economic Community and Ambassador to Belgium, Austria, Norway, and Sweden. Moreover, he played a prominent role in the negotiation of the Second Lomé (ACP-EEC) Convention and was elected Chairman of the Sugar Sub-Committee on several occasions, later assuming chairmanship of the Trade Sub-Committee. He was also appointed Special Rapporteur for the Joint ACP-EEC Assembly on the implementation of the Lomé Convention that same year.

Returning to Guyana, Dr. Insanally assumed crucial responsibilities, including Head of the Political Division for the Western Hemisphere, coupled with ambassadorial roles in Colombia and High Commissioner positions in various Caribbean nations in 1982. His elevation to Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations five years later further solidified his impactful career.

Notably, his presidency at the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly from 1993 stands as a testament to his leadership on the global stage. During his presidency, Dr. Insanally orchestrated a World Hearing on Development, drawing together a distinguished assembly of experts and practitioners in the field. His chairmanship of the Working Group on the Reform on the Security Council further highlighted his commitment to effective multilateralism in the world's foremost multilateral institution. As an ardent participant in multilateral fora, he continued to attend high-level meetings of many other international and regional organizations such as the Non-Aligned Movement in 1981, and served as Chairman of the Group of 77 and the Preparatory Committee for the South Summit in 1999, substantially increasing the profile of the Caribbean at international fora. In 2001, Dr. Insanally was appointed Member of the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly of the United Nations as well as Minister of Foreign Affairs in Guyana.

As a prolific and highly accomplished diplomatic leader and expert, Dr Insanally earned several honours from around the world, namely the Order of Roraima in 1995 (Guyana), Order of the Liberator, Grand Cordon in 1978 (Venezuela), Order of the Southern Cross, Grand Cordon in 2003 (Brazil), and the Order of the Rising Sun, Grand Cordon 2009 (Japan).

In conjunction with the myriad of diplomatic feats, Dr Insanally's literary works left an indelible impact on the field of International Relations. His books, exploring Guyanese culture and multilateral diplomacy include *Multilateral Diplomacy for Small States: "The art of letting others have your way"* (2012), *Dancing Between the Raindrops: A Dispatch From A Small State Diplomat* (2015), *The Guyanese Culture: Fusion or Diffusion* (2018) and *The Mystery of God: The Principles of God Diplomacy* (2020).

Beyond diplomacy and authorship, Dr. Insanally's passion for education and sharing knowledge was evident through his engagements with institutions like the University of Guyana and his support for the Institute of International Relations at UWI. His dedication to education shone through during his tenure in 1982 where he served on the Board of IIR as representative of the Government of Guyana, and Chancellor of the University of Guyana from

1994 to 2001. His willingness to share his wealth of experience with students and colleagues of the IIR, alongside his significant contributions to the Board of IIR, reflected his dedication to nurturing future diplomats, researchers and policymakers in the field.

In acknowledging Dr. Insanally's profound influence on the IIR and his commitment to fostering academic and professional growth within the Institute, Former Directors of the IIR provide valuable insights. Dr. Anthony Gonzales reminisces Dr. Insanally's pivotal role in his own professional development, stating, "On his request, IIR sent me to work with him for three months during his Chairmanship, providing me with important insights into the workings of the General Assembly... I was able to return to IIR with a better understanding of how the UN worked." Dr. Insanally's impact is further underscored by the presentation and launch of his book at the IIR, *Multilateral Diplomacy for Small States: The art of letting others have your way* (2012) where Dr. Gonzales was acknowledged for lending his expertise in the field. This seminal work laid the foundation for what Professor Andy Knight aptly described as a "masterful piece" in the infant Caribbean Journal of International Relations and Diplomacy launched by the IIR in 2013. Based on the reception of his works and his interactions with the Institute, Professors Anthony Bryan and Andy Knight fittingly concur that he was "highly respected as a true professional" and "a consummate academic and public intellectual right up until his passing."

Ambassador Dr. Samuel Rudolph Insanally's career was a tapestry woven with unparalleled dedication and service to Guyana and the international community. His contributions, spanning decades of service, reflect a lifetime devoted to diplomacy, education, and the advancement of International Relations. Dr. Insanally's legacy as a diplomat, statesman, author, and educator remains an inspiration to all. The Institute of International Relations and the academic community at large will forever cherish his invaluable contributions and steadfast professionalism.

May he rest in eternal peace.