

## Institute for the Decolonization of Suriname

Sandew Hira



1

## Venezuela-Suriname

	Venezuela	Suriname
Population	31.000.000	500.000
Surface (km2)	912.050	163.820
BNP/capita	\$12.500	\$14.800
BNP total (billion)	\$382	\$9
Ethnicity		
- Mestizo	52%	
- White	44%	
- African	3%	
- Indigenous	1%	
- Indian		27%
- Maroon		22%
- Afro Sur		18%
- Indonesian		14%
- Mixed		13%
- Indigenous		4%
- Chinese		2%
- European		1%
Government budget		
- Income (billion)	\$93	\$0,560
- Expenditure (billion)	\$190	\$0,828

2

## Economic

- Dutch colony 1667-1975
- Plantation economy based on sugar
- 1940 onwards mining: bauxite Alcoa
- 2000 onwards: oil and later gold: state oil company

3

## Social

- Population: 500.000 in Suriname, 350.000 in Netherlands
- 1965-1980: mass migration to Holland
- Paramaribo capital: 150.000

4

## Culture

- One university: Anton de Kom University
- Orientation: Holland
- Media: private-ethnically based/state

5

## Geography

- Small stroke inhabited
- Large Amazone wood interior
- Tribal communities
- Link to The Netherlands: economic, social, cultural, political

6

## Politics

- 1948: self-rule, parliament, political parties based on ethnicity
- 1950-1965: black nationalism: small
- 1965-1975: small leftish groups
- 1975: independence

7

## Modern politics

- Coup d-etat/revolution: 25 feb 1980. Leader: Desi Bouterse
- 1980-1982: confrontation
- 1982: 8 December killings: 15 persons
- Linked to Cuba and Grenada
- 1987: september elections for constitution and november for parliament/president

8

## Interior war and lawfare

- 1986-1992: 450 dead, mostly maroons and soldiers
- Media dominated about the December killings. Families demand: bring Bouterse to justice
- Bouterse establish: National Democratic Party NDP

9

## Electoral history: 51 seats in parliament

Year	Seats
1987	3
1991	12
1996	16
2000	10
2005	15
2010	23
2015	26

10

## Court case

- Start 2007 and set amnesty law aside
- Aim: sentence Bouterse to jail

11

## Public intellectual

- 1982: first book history of struggle against colonialism
- Fourth International
- Grenada revolution
- 2010 Starnieuws column every Monday – Decolonizing The Mind
- Against Bouterse and against imperialism



12

## The testimony of president Bouterse: 2015-2017



- Melvin Linscheer: National Security Advisor – solution for 8 December killings
- Demand: truth finding – testimony of the president
- Court case legitimacy
- Link december killings-interior war
- Process of education: pres conference debates, DTM concept of murder and political violence, function of court cases
- Political mobilization: security issues

13

## Committee of victims of interior war

- Dialogue and reconciliation
- Path for reconciliation
- Day of national mourning
- Law in parliament recognition political violence, reparation, education in textbooks of modern history

14

## Minister of finance

- Gilmore Hoefdraad economist trained in Cuba, worked at IMF governor central bank
- Write a sequence of Priary which ended in 1940
- Modern history should be encyclopedial and institutional
- Work should be paid not as testimony
- 2016 OK
- Proposal

15

## Problems of finance

- Partner Sitla: can not accept salary
- Discussion: set up without salary, maybe compensation IT and publishing house
- Not government funded, but People Bank 140 year anniversary: no control parliament

16

## The concept of the institute: research

- Research into modern history of Suriname 1940-now: encyclopedia 6 volumes, 1,000 page per volume
- Five dimensions: economic, social, cultural, political and geographical
- General volume: link the dimension per historical phase
- Basis for textbooks in education

17

## The concept of the institute: training in DTM

- Training of the staff
- Set up educational programs into DTM: decolonial pluriversity
- Cadre formation for the NDP
- Relationship with Decolonial International Network
  - Digital library
  - Conferences
  - Decolonial university

18

## Staff: missing 2 (economist, political science)



19

## Audio visual: design, video



20

## Office Manager



21

I am scientific director

## General director: Moejinga Linga



22

## Budget

- Three years: 1 million Euro's staff 8 persons
- I am every three months in Suriname
- 2020: election year – uncertainty
- Office: now in hotel, after 6 months our own building with video studio for lectures, courses and training

23

## Challenge 1: research

- How do you produce a 6-volume encyclopedia with a young staff that has little research experience, no theoretical background and little technical research knowledge (databases, data-collection)
- Ministry of finance: give me an experienced economist
- Training on the job
- ICT crucial in driving data-collection, analysis, research management

24

## Challenge 2: education

- NDP – scientific bureau unofficial cooperation
- Decolonial pluriversity: develop curriculum: project education
- Conference on decolonial research methods and techniques
- Relation with university: has to be explored yet

25

## Challenge 3: book on DTM

- Theoretical basis of DTM
- Theores of liberation
- Theory and practice: decolonial economic theory and policy
- Concept of a new world civilization

26

## Cooperation

- Theoretical research
- Decolonial pluriversity: curriculum, Spanish version
- Network of decolonial institutes: Venezuela, Suriname, others?
- Join research program
- Join training program for cadre formation
- Link with art

27