

Dear Members of the UN Human Rights Committee,

On March 19th, 2024 while listening to Honorable Minister Gail Texiera's response to the UN Human Rights Committee's questions with respect to Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I was flabbergasted by what appeared to be her carefully prepared answer littered with gross untruthfulness. The recording is available here, <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k14/k14390m61t>.

It was a complete fabrication and disrespectfulness by the Minister towards the Committee, when she barefacedly proclaimed that I "oversaw the 2016 Exxon/Government of Guyana Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) which was widely criticized"; and that I was responsible for the hiding of some sort of \$18 Million signing bonus.

1. The PSA was signed in June 2016, while I was still employed as a Senior Executive (highest levels of the USA Government) with the highest national security clearance in the Department of Energy. As such, it would have been a very serious violation of the US laws, national security, and my oath of office to be working for another Government. Not only is this Minister's accusation false and disrespectful to the Committee, but it also puts me at risk of being branded as conducting illegal and unpatriotic acts against the USA.
2. I retired from the US Government on December 31, 2016, and did not take up employment as Head of the EPA until October 1, 2018, a full 2 years and 3 months after the PSA was signed. You can see here, <https://www.energy.gov/management/articles/dr-vincent-adams-retiring-after-30-year-doe-career>, where my retirement was announced on December 29th, 2016 by the U.S. Department of Energy.
3. As the Stabroek News front page article of February 4, 2018, see <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2018/02/04/news/guyana/exxon-should-pay-us1b-up-front-to-guyana-energy-expert-says/>, would attest, I was the first to publicly criticize the PSA before it became a popular thing to do; and driven by my professionalism, I have continued to do so, even when Head of the EPA under the previous Government that signed the PSA. Thus, her suggestion that I was responsible for crafting and defending it, is a deliberate falsehood to mislead the Committee.
4. The EPA has absolutely nothing to do with the crafting and/or managing the PSA, for that would be an obvious conflict of interest. It was crafted, and is managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

I have not listened to the entire testimony of the Minister, but based upon this small portion on the EPA and my close following of the country's Governance, it is crystal clear that all of her answers will undoubtedly be consistent with the incompetence, nontransparency and untruthfulness of the Government.

Respectfully,

Dr Vincent Adams,

Former Head of Guyana's EPA