

## **Ralph Everard Gonsalves**

### **Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

Ralph Everard Gonsalves was born on Aug. 8, 1946, in Colonarie. He studied economics and government at the University of the West Indies and received a doctorate from Victoria University in Manchester.

A lawyer, Mr. Gonsalves worked in several Caribbean jurisdictions. He has also lectured at the University of the West Indies, written a weekly column, and is an author.

Mr. Gonsalves was first elected to Parliament in 1994 and became leader of the Unity Labour Party in 1998. He was elected Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in March 2001.

## **Rinaldo Ronald Venetiaan**

### **President of Suriname**

Rinaldo Ronald Venetiaan was born in Paramaribo on June 18, 1936. He graduated in mathematics and physics from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. Mr. Venetiaan worked in the Netherlands for three years before returning to Suriname, where he was a mathematics teacher, department head, and principal at three teachers' colleges between 1964 and 1973. Later posts for Mr. Venetiaan included Minister of Education, head of the Bureau for Scientific Education and Research, research adviser at the General Statistics Bureau, and executive member of UNESCO.

In 1991, Mr. Venetiaan became President of Suriname, a position that he held until 1996. He spent the next few years as a member of the National Assembly before becoming President again in August 2000. Mr. Venetiaan is married and has four children.