

People's National Congress Reform- 1 GUYANA

MANIFESTO

2006

MOVE FORWARD
with 1 GUYANA

Vote

PNCR-1G





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Foreword by The of PNCR-1G,

On August 28th, 2006, Guyanese will be seeking, through regional and national elections, to start the process that will set our country on the path to good and transparent governance, social development and economic prosperity after years of stagnation.

The People's National Congress Reform - One Guyana (PNCR-1G) platform possesses the vision, experience and capacity to work with ALL the people of Guyana towards the achievement of these goals.

Our vision for a transformed Guyana takes as its starting point our belief that God is the Supreme Master of the Universe; and the recognition that the onerous demands of managing our country require the collective effort of all of our people. Our vision includes the building of strong families with healthy family values; the strengthening of communities to solve problems at the point at which they emerge; enhancing our education system; reducing unemployment; improving health care; and removing the overwhelming cycle of terror, fear and dependence that the drug-lords and their drug-

Presidential Candidate Robert H.O. Corbin

pushers have introduced into our country.

We perceive ourselves to be part of a "team for development" that includes all stakeholders in Guyana. This team is committed to including and embracing all the people of Guyana, of every political persuasion, race, class and economic background.

It is our firm belief that the key to the transformation of Guyana is the full involvement of young people in the development of our country. Our plan therefore offers hope to the young people of Guyana, through opportunities to develop themselves intellectually, culturally, socially and economically.

The restoration of free education at the University level is one of our immediate goals. Our educational reforms will also include the broadening of the curriculum for technical and vocational education to provide the skills needed for success in this Information Technology age.

Our Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) will develop recreational and cultural institutions to cater to all the various recreational and cultural needs of young people across the country. We intend equipping Guyanese youth



with the skills to succeed in the emerging cultural, sporting and other recreational industries.

Our Manifesto is intended to serve as an outline upon which, with God's guidance and with this support of all the people of Guyana, we can move Guyana forward after 28th August 2006.

I appeal to all the people of Guyana to join us in this noble task of building a strong, prosperous and united Guyana.

Robert Corbin

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THE NATIONAL PROBLEM

Guyana cannot continue in its present state of poverty, conflict, stagnation and pessimism. If it does, none of us, nor the generations to come, will enjoy peace and prosperity. The majority of us will remain poor, dissatisfied and deprived. Our personal aspirations will remain unrealized. Our hopes for a better life unfulfilled. Our children's future bleak and barren. We cannot allow this to continue. We deserve better.

WE MUST MOVE GUYANA FORWARD!



The PNCR-IG's vision and strategies

The PNCR-One Guyana (PNCR-1G) government commits itself to:

- respecting and accepting the divine authority of the Supreme Being;
- creating a society based on morals and values, including tolerance, mutual respect, care and kindness, fairness and equality, freedom and opportunity;
- restoring family values;
- ensuring all Guyanese have the opportunities to realise their personal aspirations and full potential;
- helping to move each and every Guyanese from poverty to prosperity;
- ensuring that no Guyanese feels marginalized, or is prevented from participating to his or her fullest in the development of community and country;
- building on the unique strengths of the people and the country, such as creativity, cultural diversity, natural beauty and strategic location;
- establishing Guyana as a competitive and viable economic entity in an increasingly globalised and competitive world;
- reducing and removing constant threats and dangers such as crime, floods, and diseases to the lives and property of Guyanese.



Among our broad strategies to realize these objectives, we will:

- establish a new form of governance that will eliminate ethnic divisiveness, inefficiencies in public spending, executive lawlessness, and corrupt practices;
- decentralise decision-making;
- establish a democratic system based on the inclusion of individuals, their communities, and their organisations in decision-making, especially on matters that directly affect them;
- reshape our education system into one of excellence and relevance;
- facilitate private initiative and entrepreneurship as the engine of the national development thrust;
- reform and modernize key public institutions, such as the law courts, the public service and the police force;
- enrich the social life of Guyana by re-emphasizing culture, the arts, sports and other creative endeavours;
- create institutions dedicated to research and knowledge creation, where our best minds can deliberate and offer policy advice and ideas to government and other stakeholders.

To encompass all these ideas, we intend, as a national priority, to update and refine **the National Development Strategy (NDS)** in consultation with the general public, the private sector, the trade unions and other members of civil society, and international stakeholders. The new revised NDS will represent a working document of our country's collective vision and strategies to guide development in the medium to long-term. It will be crafted and owned by the people of Guyana.

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FOSTERING INCLUSION AND GOOD

Government by the people for the people.

We intend to solve the country's political problem as the absolute prerequisite for building a new Guyana.

Achieving shared governance or government of national unity

Mr. Robert Corbin, in his speech to our 14th Biennial Congress, in August 2004, articulated the party's vision on a new form of governance: *"... we stand ready and committed to a platform of shared governance and inclusivity. We must make it clear that we are willing to share Executive Authority and to explore and negotiate imaginative forms of governance and reform of our national, regional and local governments to ensure that the goal of full inclusivity is realized."*

On attaining government, the PNCR-1G will establish shared governance or a government of national unity. We believe, for example, that:

- all significant political groups of society must be represented in the national executive decision-making process;
- measures must be put in place to enable appropriate representation of special groups particularly

Amerindians, women, and youth in the national decision-making process; and

- the new government must be subject to independent, powerful and effective mechanisms of oversight and scrutiny.

Achieving good governance

Guyana must have a government that upholds the laws of the land, is accountable to the people, responds to their needs, embraces the equality of all citizens, and involves them in decision-making.

The PNCR-IG platform commits itself to observing all aspects of good governance. For instance, we will work to:

- **make parliament meaningful:** The gap between parliament and those whom it is meant to serve, the Guyanese citizens, is too wide. No gap must exist. Parliament must serve as the main forum for citizens and groups to make their inputs to shaping decisions, especially those that affect them directly. The PNCR will ensure, among other initiatives, that parliamentary committees, which facilitate this process, are well-funded and staffed.
- **make government accountable to the people.** We believe a government must serve its citizens. In accounting to the people, we will submit ourselves to the scrutiny of all constitutional oversight bodies. We will work to en-

GOVERNANCE

sure the effective functioning of a full-bodied and independent network of public defender and watchdog authorities, such as the Ombudsman, the Auditor's General Office, the Police Complaints Authority, the Constitution Commissions (e.g., the ERC, the Indigenous people's Commission and others) and parliamentary oversight committees.

- **make government transparent.** A transparent government is one whose actions and decisions are open to public scrutiny. It is a government that holds to the belief that the public have the right to know. The rules and procedures to make this happen will be outlined in freedom of information legislation, which the PNCR-IG is committed to enacting and implementing.
- **remove discrimination:** In Guyana, discrimination in all forms continues to generate social friction and personal bitterness. We will tackle discrimination in all public institutions and in all its manifestations including gender, race, age, disability and religion. Our goal will be to detect and deter discrimination, as well as to actively promote fairness and equality. The PNCR-1G government's anti-discrimination system will rest on four pillars: (i) the enactment and activation of anti-discrimination legislation and codes of practice; (ii) reforming our monitoring and enforcement agencies (such as the Ethnic Relations Commission), and establishing the Human Rights Commission and the Indigenous People's Commission; (iii)

“Discrimination in all forms continues to generate social friction and personal bitterness. We will tackle discrimination in all public institutions and in all its manifestations including gender, race, age, disability and religion.”

the enactment of freedom of information legislation to increase transparency in government operations, and (iv) the conducting of public awareness and education campaigns.

- **Implement all outstanding Constitutional reforms and give life to those already enacted.** These include (i) the establishment of the outstanding Constitution Commissions (the Human Rights Commission, the Indigenous People's Commission, the Gender Rights Commission, the Public Procurement Commission and the Local Government Commission); (ii) the enhancement of the work of the standing parliamentary committees on economic matters, natural resources, foreign affairs and social services; and (iii) the implementation of local government reform.

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Returning power to communities through local government.

It is time to give local government back to the people. For too long, our system of municipalities and councils has been unfaithful to its ideals and mandate — a mandate to empower people to participate in decisions that affect them in their communities, to give people a voice in their own governance, to rebuild community pride and spirit, to instill civic responsibility, to guarantee timely elections to keep people's interest and participation in local government matters high and to forge national unity. During the last 14 years none of these has been delivered.

Among other initiatives, the next PNCR-IG government pledges to:

- implement all the outstanding reforms on local government;
- use a formula that will allocate resources to local bodies in an objective manner;
- reduce the power of the Local Government Minister to interfere in the decisions of local authorities;
- establish the independent Local Government Commission to ensure decisions by local authorities are made within the law and in a fair and just manner;
- implement measures to make Councillors more accountable to those who elected them;
- embark upon a public education programme to empower citizens to make use of ALL these provisions;

- take national politics out of local politics.

Effective spending of public money (your money).

Every year, hundreds of millions of dollars are squandered through poor government policies, corruption, waste, bad planning, poor execution, and a high-handed attitude in running the affairs of the people. The PNCR does not accept the loss of such sums as "reasonable". This money could be used, for example, to fight crime, to provide better education and health services; or to train young people.

Our approach as a government will be to:

- set clear national policies and goals after consultation with stakeholders;
- assign government agencies measurable goals and give them the resources to do the job;
- hold government agencies accountable for performance and results, with incentives for good work;
- get citizens themselves involved in identifying their needs and in monitoring how programmes in their communities are implemented;
- pay more attention to how programmes impact on people's well-being rather than on how much money was spent and how much infrastructure was built or repaired;
- strengthen public accountability through, for instance, powerful parliamentary oversight committees and a well funded and completely independent Auditor General Office.

BUILDING A BOOMING ECONOMY



Under the PPP/C, the Guyana economy has experienced zero to negative growth over the last eight years. When one considers that nearly 60% of our economy is fuelled by international narco-enterprise and other Proceeds of Crime, the magnitude of the ineptitude of the PPP/C government becomes even more striking.

The PNCR-1G government's biggest project will be to urgently rebuild and expand the economy. Some of our strategies include:

Getting and supporting new investment

The key to rapid economic growth is large-scale and continuous investment from the foreign and local private sectors. Omai Goldmines Ltd, for example, which was brought in by the PNC, pumped from 1993 to 2003 over US\$ 50 million a year into the economy and employed 1,000 Guyanese. Guyana needs a multitude of such investments in all sectors of the economy.

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The incoming PNCR-IG administration will:

- welcome and facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) in our economy;
- drastically eliminate the current regime of bureaucratic regulations and political patronage, which makes doing business in Guyana difficult and unpredictable at present;
- completely eliminate the politically-directed and discretionary regime of incentives and investment approvals and put in place an objective, stable and clearly-articulated investment regime;
- replace Goinvest with a technically competent and non-political agency tasked with the responsibility and authority to act as a one-stop investment agency;
- depoliticise appointments to all public sector boards and commissions;
- end corruption associated with investment decisions;
- create a regime of additional incentives for 'early bird' investors that come on board our development programme;
- radically restructure the public sector to bring it in line with modern best practice of administration including greater transparency, accountability and consumer friendliness;
- target Direct Diaspora Investment (DDI) — the large pool of disposable income held by Guyanese in the Diaspora;
- capitalise on our strategic location as an English-speaking gateway for

transporting goods and services into and out of the northern land-locked regions of Brazil and the eastern areas of Venezuela.

Creating an opportunity economy

The Guyanese economy must be structured to facilitate and encourage the economic participation of a wider mass of the people. Not only will a PNCR-1G government work to build a larger and vibrant economy, we will provide ordinary Guyanese with a wide array of choices of how they can improve their earning power. We will (i) provide more and better-paying jobs, (ii) give Guyanese from all walks of life the opportunity to become share holders and investors, and (iii) trigger a boom in small business ownership.

Supporting small businesses

We recognize that the modern economy is not dependant solely on the large investor but also on small business. Small business growth accounts for a large part of the growth of all of the world's successful economies. As such, the new government will provide special incentives to support small investors, both by encouraging existing investors to innovate



and expand and by encouraging new investors to enter the world of enterprise.

The incoming PNCR-1G government will tackle barriers to financing for small and growing businesses – especially enterprises in depressed communities. We will offer start-ups, social enterprises and small businesses access to tailored intensive support and coaching. To foster the entrepreneurs of tomorrow, several institutions in the country will offer enterprise education. We plan also to make business education a core course for university students.

Creating a National Economic and Social Council

The PNCR-1G will enact legislation to create a National Economic and Social Council that will address social and economic issues affecting the nation.

Advisory Council on Economic Affairs

This council will comprise Guyanese from the diaspora and others who will advise the Government on broad economic issues and global trends.

Cultural Industry

Guyana has undeveloped potential in our cultural industry. In particular, we will emphasize the importance of investment in our musical heritage, modern music sector and our art and craft industries. These industries are vital, not only as supports for our tourism drive, but these are sectors which are capable of competing in the global marketplace and generating important jobs and fi-



nancial returns to the economy. We will enact appropriate copyright laws to protect intellectual property.

Aiming for full employment

Guyana has more people out of work than ever before, with the unemployment rate rising every year. Our goal is to create employment opportunity for all. We plan to add thousands of new jobs every year at various skill levels. We are confident we can achieve this through (i) our proven ability to attract large investments; (ii) giving incentives to labour-intensive industries such as garment manufacturing; (iii) re-focusing education and training to relevant fields; (iv) establishing free or affordable skills-upgrading centres; (v) working closely with industries and service providers to anticipate their labour needs.

This ambitious target will not be achieved overnight. But we are confident we can get there.

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Establishment of Export Promotion Zones (EPZs)

Export promotion zones, which grant special concessions to investors who are specifically interested in using Guyana as a place from which to export their goods and services and Free Trade Zones, which are utilised as facilities for through traffic of commodities have proven themselves in several countries around the globe as kick-starts to investment. We believe that Guyana is uniquely placed to serve as a bulk trans-shipment point between the northern Brazilian states of Roraima and Amazonas, to the Caribbean, North America and the rest of the world. A first priority for the new government will be assembling suitable investors and reaching agreements with the related governments so that the identification of the location for the EPZ and the related port facilities can begin. This will provide employment in the construction and related industries, will be linked to the upgrading of the Guyana-Brazil road to an international highway, and will stimulate the growth of related warehousing, processing, manufacturing and services in the EPZ.

Construction of a modern large-scale road network

Under a revised and updated GUYANA 21 programme, the PNCR-1G will construct new highway links across the country to open up new lands for the development of new communities, industrial sites, agricultural expansion, mining, forestry and eco-tourism development.

In government, we will re-examine such infrastructural works as:

- A highway linking the new International Airport to the East Bank Essequibo River at Makouria.
- Several smaller bridges and causeways linking the islands at the mouth of the Essequibo River.
- A highway from Soesdyke to Wales on the West Bank of the Demerara River.
- A highway from Parika to Monkey



Jump on the East Bank of the Essequibo River.

- A highway from Supenaam to Kamaria on the Cuyuni River.
- A highway from Charity Pomeroon to the Venezuelan border.

Construction of the Guyana to Brazil transport link

A top priority for the PNCR-1G Government will be the early construction of a paved highway connecting Guyana to the north central states of Brazil. This economic region of Brazil is land locked and a road through Guyana to the Atlantic Ocean will permit the inflow and outflow of goods to that region of Brazil on a cost-effective basis. A Deep Water Harbour will be built at the mouth of the Essequibo River.

The Brazilians have already built all weather roads to the border with Guyana and await paving of the Guyana to Brazil section of the road. Only 60 miles of the 360-mile highway have been paved. Brazil's need to reduce its high import bills and increase export performance is vital to its economic survival. A shorter route to the Atlantic is fast becoming critical. Paving of the remaining 300 miles is an ideal BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) project for a major international road construction/engineering firm in a Joint Venture with Guyanese counterparts.

Along this new artery, townships will be created at Rockstone, Arisaru Mountain, Kurupukari, Mabura Hill and Good Hope. Multi-acre homesteads along this corridor of opportunity suitable for a range of economic projects will be made available at low cost to local and Diaspora Guyanese.

Sugar

The PNCR-1G is committed to:

- the modernisation and vibrant survival of the sugar industry and will proceed in a constructive and consultative manner in dealing with this vital sector;
- establishing a commission for a broad-based review of the existing studies to determine the range of options available for the future of the sugar industry;
- involving all the appropriate social and economic partners including the unions represented in the industry and the communities directly affected by its welfare in developing a viable and consensual programme for the industry;
- working actively with Guysuco to bring greater efficiencies to the industry by improving quality, increasing value added products and reducing the cost of production.
- finding viable alternative uses of sugar-cane, such as fuel grade alcohol.



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Rice

Rice is suffering from a technological meltdown: the same fertiliser regimes, seed varieties, land preparation practices, and field technology used 20 years ago are still being used today. Expansion of the rice crop has been forced into areas of marginal fertility and nonexistent infrastructure, where low yields result from bad drainage and poor soils. Additionally, not enough has been done by the Ministry of Agriculture or the Rice Producers Association to upgrade the technology of the rice Industry in Guyana. It is our intention to reverse this trend by introducing better yielding varieties, better land levelling and land preparation techniques, better delivery of fertilizer and other inputs needed to improve the industry's performance.

Our plans for the rice industry also include:

- Establishment of a window in our development banking system to offer pre-crop financing to growers, and trade financing to exporters in co-lending schemes with commercial banks at concessionary rates of interest.
- Introduction of a crop insurance scheme to protect farmers partially against losses due to natural disasters.
- A complete assessment and redesign of drainage and irrigation systems and sea defences.
- Immediate action to repair defective sluices and outlets.
- Repairing and rebuilding farm-to-market access roads.
- The establishment of a **Rice Development Council** to include all stakeholders in the industry (farmers, millers, exporters, providers of support services, e.g. research and input suppliers, and lending agencies). This Council will be a Think Tank to plan strategies to ensure long-term profitability and growth.
- Implementation of a programme to aggressively market Guyana's rice and value-added products in the Caribbean, Central and South America and Europe.
- Initiating research and offering encouragement to private sector manufacturers, for the **downstream use of rice in food manufacturing** using, improved and patented technology already existing in Guyana and elsewhere.
- Encouragement of links between rice cultivation and aquaculture based on **the utilization of the by-products of the rice industry**.



Mining



We see the mining industry as becoming a major growth industry, contributing over 35% of Guyana's GDP. At the same time, we recognise the negative social and environmental impacts such development can cause and is already causing. The PNCR-IG government's main objectives in the administration of mining in Guyana will include the following:

- Promoting investment in the sector. Our emphasis will be on discovering and developing medium-sized gold and diamond deposits and large deposits of other minerals, such as platinum, manganese, chromium and petroleum.
- Promoting poverty reduction and sustainable development, particularly in Indigenous and other Interior communities. We will use part of the proceeds we receive from mining and forestry to create an Amerindian Development Fund.
- Improving the economic viability of mining operations. We will use incentives to encourage miners to use better technology and mining methods.
- Safeguarding the natural environment, especially in the face of increasing mercury pollution and river turbidity.
- Promoting good health practices in mining outfits and communities, in particular reversing the high incidence of vector-borne and water-borne diseases in mining districts.
- Reducing negative social impacts, such as the incidence of crime and the spread of STDs.
- Protecting the rights and interests of Indigenous populations, especially their land rights.

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THE PNCR 1G TEAM



Robert Corbin



Winston Murray



Dave Danny



Kadim Khan



Africo Selman



Dr Dalgleish Joseph



Dr George Norton



Dr Ivor Mitchell



Fiesal Ferose Ali



Amna Ally



Anthony Vieira



Basil Williams



Andrea Marks



Abiola Wong



Clarissa Riehl



Aubrey Norton



Balwant Persaud



Mervin Williams

THE
PNCR
1G
TEAM



James Mc Allister



Gillian Burton



Hazel Pinder



Joseph Hamilton



Roy Babel



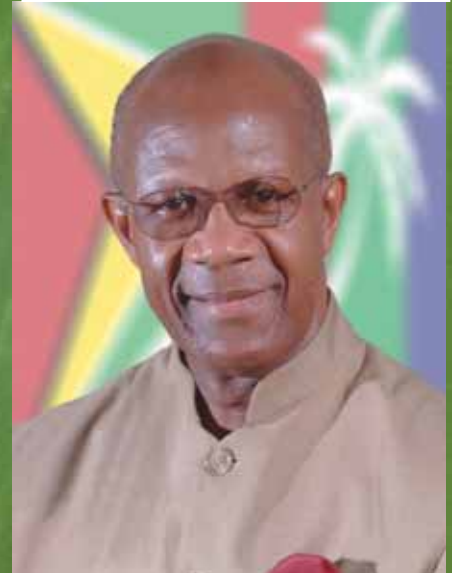
Deborah Backer



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David Pollard



Lance Carberry



Hamley Case



Keith Scott



Volda Lawrence



Deryck Bernard



Shondel Hope



Vincent Alexander



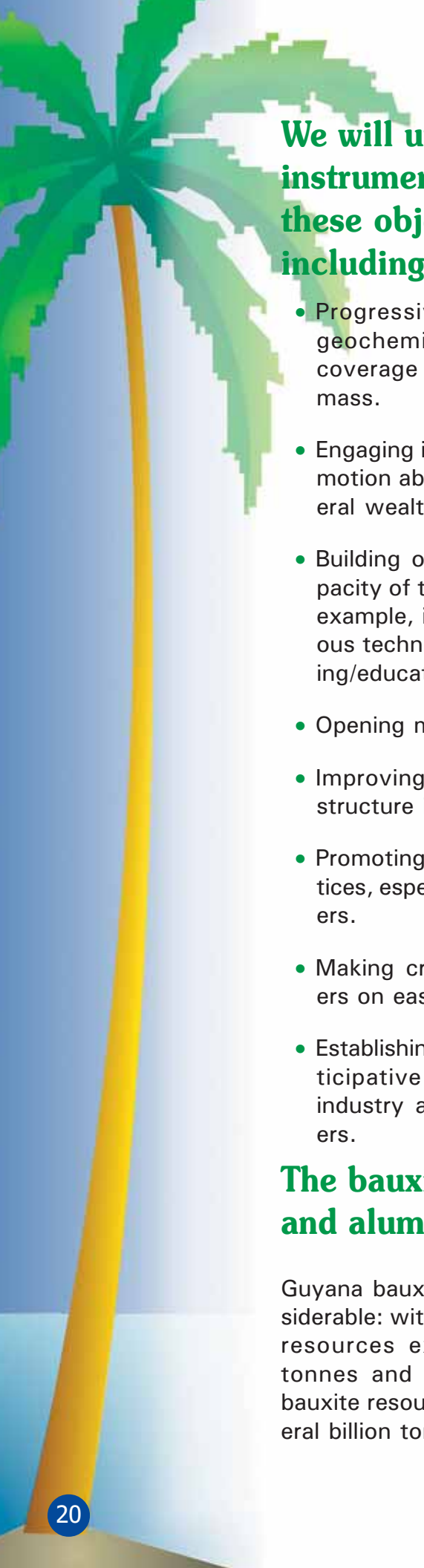
Joan Baveghems



Sherwood Lowe



Cyrilda De Jesus



We will utilise several instruments to achieve these objectives, including:

- Progressively building on the geochemical and geophysical coverage of the Guyana land-mass.
- Engaging in more pro-active promotion abroad of Guyana's mineral wealth.
- Building on the institutional capacity of the GGMC, so that, for example, it can provide continuous technical services and training/education to local miners.
- Opening more lands to mining.
- Improving transportation infrastructure in the Hinterland.
- Promoting the use of best practices, especially among local miners.
- Making credit available to miners on easier terms.
- Establishing consultative and participative mechanisms among industry and interior stakeholders.

The bauxite, alumina and aluminum sector

Guyana bauxite resources are considerable: with measured high grade resources exceeding 1.0 billion tonnes and lower grade lateritic bauxite resources estimated at several billion tonnes.

All the techno-economic studies undertaken, and the projected market conditions, indicate that this abundant resource could be exploited to transform the country's declining economic growth and revive the economic well being of the existing bauxite communities.

A PNCR-1G Government would adopt a proactive approach in the development of this abundant resource and would move aggressively to reverse the declining trend in bauxite production in Guyana. The Government would move expeditiously to establish an appropriate regime of incentives, including investor friendly fiscal provisions, to stimulate investment in the sector. In addition, it would undertake an immediate review of the existing regulatory framework, for the granting of concessions for the exploitation of bauxite resources, to remove bottlenecks and ensure that decisions could be speedily made. For example, it would provide adequate bauxite resources to support the sustainable production plans of each entity.

Metallurgical Grade Bauxite and Alumina Production:

All of Guyana's bauxite resources are suitable for the production of alumina with the current measured resources estimated to be adequate to support four (4) alumina refineries of 1.5 million tonnes annual capacity for nearly 100 years.



In the context of continuing growth in demand for aluminium and consequently alumina, the global trend for alumina production to take place close to the location of bauxite resources, Guyana's vast unexploited bauxite resources, and its ability to produce bauxite and alumina competitively, the first priority of a PNCR-1G government would be the early establishment of an alumina refinery with a minimum annual capacity of 1.0 to 1.5 million tonnes. To facilitate this, the government would actively pursue avenues for international financing for establishing the necessary internal transport and port and trans-shipment facilities to eliminate the transportation constraints that impact negatively on the cost of shipping from Guyana.

Refractory Grade Bauxite Products:

The Guyana bauxite resources continue to be the world's major reserve of bauxite for refractory applications, and in spite of the dramatic decline in sales of RASC, Guyana still has the ability to regain a leading position in the high alumina refractory bauxite market. Several technical and market studies have confirmed that the homogenization

of RASC is critical to its continued use as a major refractory material. Various studies also confirmed that the demand for homogenized lower alumina high-mullite refractory materials that could be produced from bauxitic clays, which occur in abundance, as overburden and floor clay, in conjunction with our refractory bauxite deposits, was increasing faster than that for Refractory bauxite. The Guyana bauxite deposits contain all the raw materials needed for the production of the full range of the lower alumina high-mullite refractory products, the demand for which continues to be strong and which attract prices considerably higher than for run-of-the-kiln RASC.

A PNCR-1G Government would, therefore, actively promote the production of homogenized RASC and would undertake the necessary research and development activities, prepare the detailed feasibility studies, and provide appropriate incentives to the private sector for the establishment of facilities for the manufacture of the homogenized lower alumina high-mullite products.

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Forestry

Forests cover 16 million of Guyana's 19 million hectares, making it one of the most forested lands in the world with over 8,000 species of plants and more than 1,000 species of terrestrial vertebrates. Realising the potential value of Guyana's forests is a challenging task.

The PNCR-1G Administration will take an innovative approach to exploiting this vast resource now referred to as the "lungs of the earth" while respecting the rights of our 46,000 indigenous people - the Amerindians. We intend to fully involve them in the day-to-day management of the forest's resources in a way that creates real benefits and a good quality of life for them. Our focus will be on conservation of the forest's resources and rather than only promote timber harvesting for value added production, we will focus on eco-tourism i.e. forest based tourism, earnings from ecological services, genetic resource -harvesting and the building of sustainable communities based on forest use.

In practical terms we will consider halting the expansion of the State Forest Area which now ends at the 4th parallel. No new forest concessions of any size will be granted below this line if exploitation of the forest involves commercial harvesting. Our objective will be to reap revenue from the forests without destroying them.

For forestry development, we will:

- exploit the investment opportunities here for international tourism and Pharmaceutical companies
- promote investment aimed at exploit-

ing such forest products as fibers, fruits, wild animal meat, latex, oils, fish and live animals, as well as prospecting for plant and animal products of pharmaceutical value,

- seek to enter contracts with major corporate researchers and pharmaceutical companies to link biodiversity conservation sustainable with the harvesting and marketing of biogenetic material.
- increase revenue and exports from timber operations by assisting them to enter in to and maximise down stream production by revisiting banking practices, debt guarantee mechanisms and other options to facilitate access to working capital at commercial rates.
- assist in arranging joint-venture partnerships with foreign timber manufacturers and industrial users.
- work energetically with forest producers to explore ways and incentives to develop private corporate structures, which can help family owned businesses to enter into joint ventures, expand their shareholder base and manage their companies with longer term objectives.
- encourage unprecedented levels of cooperation and joint field actions by GFC and timber producers.
- work jointly with forest producers, sawmill operators, housing authorities, private builders and the banking sector to speedily remove some of the policy constraints slowing private construction of affordable housing i.e., lack of private land availability, titles and private financing.

National power generation and supply



Without cheap power, Guyana's development thrust would be retarded. We must lower energy costs for domestic and industrial users. We will consider several options. Technical studies of the hydro-power potential of Guyana established the feasibility of hydro electric capacity in excess of 7,000MW with relatively low investment and low production cost. A PNCR-IG government would actively pursue the development of hydro-power. We will also look at tapping into Venezuelan Hydro (after studying the strategic disadvantages) and an underwater pipeline from Trinidad. Also business proposals for solar, wind and wave energy production will be fast tracked.

“A PNCR-1G government would actively pursue the development of hydro-power”

As regards the off-shore exploration for oil, we are confident we can, within our first year in government, remove all obstacles to the continuation and intensification of the search for these deposits.

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CRIME AND SECURITY

Tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime

Our primary objective is to reduce crime and the causes of crime and to make all people in Guyana feel safe. We will achieve this by adopting two broad approaches: (i) when possible, stop crime from happening in the first place; and (ii) when a crime does happen, catch offenders swiftly, and bring them to justice. Our strategies for reducing crime are published in a two-part **Strategic Crime Reduction Plan (CRP) 2006-2011**. This Crime Reduction Plan deals with general criminal matters in the first section and narco-criminality in the second section. This plan is available to the public.

The PNCR-1G is motivated by one overriding principle: that all persons in Guyana must enjoy an environment **free from crime and free from the fear of crime**. For too long this has not been the case. High crime rates, long delays in bringing offenders to justice and a significant number of unsolved crimes are severely reducing the quality of life of citizens. There is a vacuum in new thinking about how to tackle criminality or to respond to the increasing threats of organized crime, particularly drug crime.

The PNCR-1G will urgently set about putting things right. We will:

- reorganise our police force to make it more efficient on the ground;
- tackle the conditions that foster crime - unemployment, marginalized communi-



ties, a tolerance of lawlessness and anti-social behaviour;

- seek international assistance as required
- identify and engage vulnerable communities;
- re-establish people's confidence in the ability of the police to protect and to serve;
- raise the detection rate significantly by improving police effectiveness and deploying new technology, including enhanced forensic investigative tools such as, better crime scene processing, DNA testing, improved communication systems, IT, and Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems, across the country to capture and prosecute criminals more effectively;
- relentlessly target the top 15-20 prolific offenders in each **Crime Reduction Partnership Area**;
- tackle loopholes that allow offenders to escape enforcement by improving information sharing and giving police officers more powers;
- approve financial incentives for enforcement staff for good performance;
- ensure the police force is more diverse and reflective of the population as a whole and the local community it serves;
- revive and re-shape community policing;



- take special action to deal effectively with domestic crime, crime against women and child abuse;
- bring an end to police brutality and extra-judicial killings;
- establish zero tolerance for racially motivated crime;
- systematically reduce the number of gun crimes by reducing the number of firearms in the system;
- increase support for victims to ensure that the vulnerable get personalized help from crime to trial and afterwards if necessary.

The PNCR-One Guyana sees the fuller participation of women and opportunities for women as key factors in a successful development programme in Guyana. We are convinced that it is poor policy making to ignore 50% of the workforce and the market. We will give high priority to programmes which will make our women more productive, more involved, more competitive and more integrated.

In particular, we will:

- establish forthwith the Gender Rights Commission;
- expand micro lending for the economic empowerment of female entrepreneurs;
- fast-track law reform to address unfinished business in the protection of women, including gender based and collateral reform e.g. small claims, family law, child law, debt protection;
- provide State support for child care in all governmental agencies;
- develop programmes to meet the social and economic needs of female-headed households;
- address the special needs of female dominated professions e.g. nursing, teaching, private security and domestic employment.

We will also put measures in place to evaluate and rectify the problems of male under-achievement in education and society.

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YOUTH

Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)

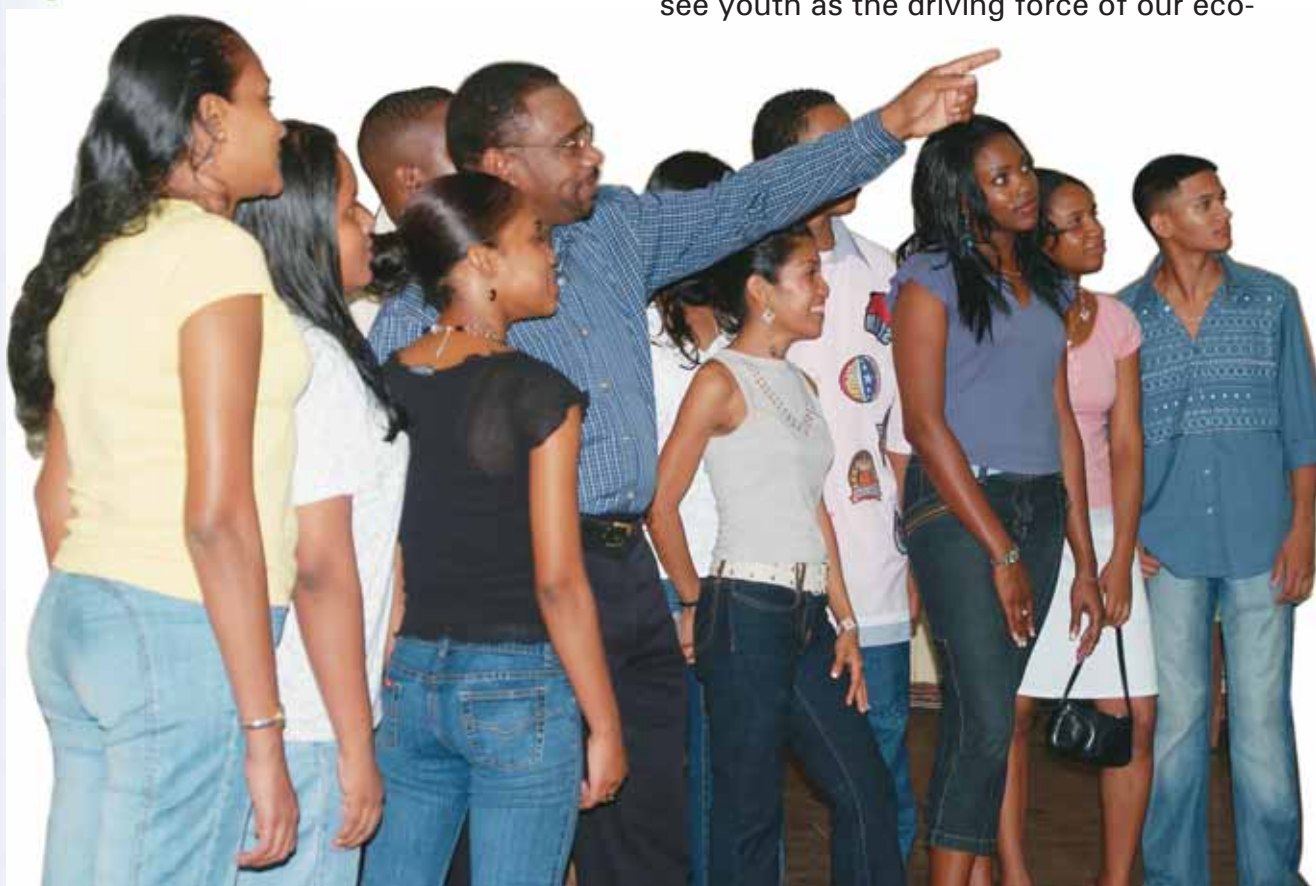
The PNCR-1G's overarching objective is to bring all our young people into the mainstream of Guyanese society as functioning and productive citizens.

We have worked out with our young people an exciting set of programmes for youths. We call it the Youth Empower-

ment Scheme (YES).

Job Creation, Education and Training:

Large numbers of youth are either unemployed or underemployed. The PNCR government's economic reconstruction plan will bring on stream a variety of jobs in all sectors of the new economy. We see youth as the driving force of our eco-



ment Scheme (**YES**). Through YES, we will tackle issues that directly affect youth such as job opportunities, career development, affordable education and training, youth entrepreneurship, health care, easy access to sports and recreation, crime prevention, and access to land and housing. Under YES, the PNCR-1G government will make it easy for young people to realise their personal aspirations whether in arts, culture, business,

economic regeneration plan and will provide them with what it takes to make them full participants.

One of our ideas is to introduce a scheme to be known as **Employment Training (ET)**. This will be organized on a regional basis and will cater for the skills required in that geographic area and the economic sector or sectors relevant to that region.

In addition, through regional **Youth Advice Offices (YAO)** we will assist trainees to find employment in a variety of jobs in industry, commerce, public service, social services, education, health, sports and leisure. Young people will also be trained to seek self-employment opportunities in such areas as motor/diesel mechanics, hairdressing, catering, Information Technology, carpentry, plumbing and other building skills, clothing and fashion, photography, book-keeping, welding, video production, drama, art and design, bakery, printing, and youth counseling.

In partnership with the private sector ET will empower youth to benefit from opportunities in business enterprises at all levels. The regional YAOs will give support to training by providing information, counseling and career advice. Importantly also, a free and confidential advisory service will be offered on issues such as citizens' rights, career guidance, substance abuse, parenthood, domestic violence, child abuse and ex-offender opportunities.

Under our **Youth Literacy Initiative (YLI)**, we will provide remedial training to young people with reading and writing problems.

Health – Putting Youth First: Each YAO will have a qualified district nurse on its staff and a consultant medical practitioner who will visit periodically. The services of the nurse and medical practitioner will be borne by the government and will include diagnosis as well as minor treatment.

Crime Concerns of youths: The new PNCR-1G government will reduce crime and restore safe communities. Youth must play their part. Our Crime Reduction Plan (CRP) is a Strate-



gic Plan for Crime Reduction 2006-2011 which we will implement immediately we take office.

As mentioned in the CRP, we will create a number of **Business Improvement Districts (BID)** by providing a range of incentives for companies and organizations that are willing to set up businesses or offices in high-crime areas. The companies that will benefit most from locating in a BID will be those willing to invest in human resources, particularly youth, in terms of employment, education/training and welfare.

It is no exaggeration to state that Guyana is now in the midst of a drug epidemic. For an epidemic to occur, two factors are crucial: availability of the drug and a vulnerable young population. We have both factors operating today. We have dedicated an entire section of the CRP to the fight against drugs. We will spare no pains in dealing forcefully with the drug traffickers and their drug lords.

We recognize there is a link between drug addiction and unemployment. Our plans to revitalize the economy will bear fruit as unemployment figures drop dramatically.

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The burden of treatment and care for drug users falls on GPs, hospital staff, community workers, district nurses, health visitors and other social workers, all of whose numbers will be increased by government spending whether through the Ministry of Health or local government social and educational services. There will be central MOH funding for action over drug addiction focused on youth as part of an overall strategy to grapple with the problem.

Land and Housing: The key to youth empowerment is the individual citizen's desire for a meaningful stake in society, most crucially in the place of work and in the home. We want youth to own their own homes – to possess land and property without having to leave Guyana. To this end, we will be allocating house lots to youth along the new 4-lane highway from Georgetown to Soesdyke.

Voluntary National Service (VNS): Another aspect of the PNCR-IG's Youth Enhancement Scheme is Voluntary National Service. Youth across the country, both males and females, will be afforded the opportunity to participate voluntarily in National Service.

A recent survey done by the Party among youth showed overwhelming support for the introduction of a Voluntary National Service (VNS). In setting up the VNS, the PNCR government will not ignore the experiences and shortcomings of the past. To this end, we will encourage the active participation of civil society, women's groups and religious organisations. Many of these groups will have representation on the VNS board of directors.

The PNCR is confident the VNS will contribute to the reduction of crime and also produce a cadre of young people who are equipped and prepared to participate in advancing the PNCR's economic reconstruction programme.

Some of the other objectives of VNS will be: (i) fostering multi-ethnic understanding, (ii) raising the aspirations of participants, (iii) fostering cross-gender respect, (iv) developing entrepreneurial skills, (v) instilling pride in work, (vi) raising HIV/AIDS awareness, (vii) creating an appreciation for law and order, good manners and discipline, and (viii) promoting sport and physical training.

YES for Youths!

MEANINGFUL EDUCATION

More children making the grade

Our country's economic development will be limited without a high-quality education system. The system at the moment is underperforming and unfocused. The PNCR-IG will create a modern, goal-oriented education system, one that can fuel economic and social renewal. Our primary objectives will be:

- Creating a child-centred learning revolution in our school system — changing the culture in our schools from one of teaching to one of student learning.
- Streamlining education to respond to national economic and social needs.
- Rebuilding the prestige of the teaching profession.
- Increasing functional literacy at all levels among children and adults.
- Getting more children into the school system.
- Reducing student-to-trained-teacher ratios, class sizes, dropout rates.
- Reducing inequalities in the quality of education across urban, rural and hinterland schools to leave no child behind.
- The importance of life-long learning and technical/vocation education as part of the national development emphasis on new investment.

To achieve these objectives, our strategies will be to:

- increase education spending as a share

of the GDP, but also re-distribute spending in line with our new education goals;

- reverse the trend of teacher migration by initiatives including offering more attractive remuneration packages and better working conditions. Under our Vital Services Land Scheme, teachers will be allocated free house lots;
- reform teaching methodology to include greater use of InfoTech resources;
- craft a higher education policy, based on the manpower needs of the country, and to guide tertiary institutions on the type, quantity and quality of graduates to produce;
- scrap fee paying at UG and cancel all outstanding student loans;
- introduce performance measures in schools and grant financial incentives for high-achieving schools;
- streamline vocational training in sync with the demands of an industrial sector that will face greater competition in the global economy;
- encourage community initiatives in the management of local schools;
- introduce moral education in secondary schools;
- put more emphasis on **special education** through the mainstreaming of persons with physical and other disabilities so that they can have modern educational opportunities and an equal chance at participation in the modern economy.

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HEALTH CARE

An adequate and effective health care system is vital to our nation's well-being. It was the PNC Government that introduced free health services in mid-1970s for all Guyanese regardless of their income levels and the location of their communities. The PNCR-1G government in 2006 will maintain this philosophy. We will build a health care system that is caring and professional, emphasizing both preventative and curative health policies.

Our plans include:

- Increasing the number and quality of all categories of health care workers by placing more emphasis on staff training and skill-upgrading and on improving remuneration and other conditions of work in the medical profession.
- Placing emphasis on preventative health care by allocating more government resources to public education, sanitation issues and school feeding programmes.
- Investigating the nutritional status of children and adults to identify nutritional deficiencies and implement appropriate remedies.
- Improving the system of procurement and distribution of drugs and equipment to the regional public health care system.
- Responding adequately to such medical crises as AIDS, infant mortality, malaria outbreaks and substance abuse.
- Improving the accident and emergency capability of the Health System.
- Reviewing the areas of jurisdiction and improving the coordination between the Ministry of Health and the local government bodies in the management of the health care system.
- Enacting new health legislation in areas such as food storage and handling, environment and sanitation to make all legislation relevant to current situations and trends.



An HIV/AIDS epidemic has been raging in Guyana for a long time.

Six percent of Guyanese, or 45,000 persons, have officially been tested HIV + and the percentage of infected persons continues to rise each year. Alarming as these statistics are, there is under-reporting of the real extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Guyana. One reason is because the systems for the collection of data and testing are poor. Another is that testing for HIV is voluntary, which means that many people may be infected, but not diagnosed. An HIV/AIDS crisis of this magnitude requires swift, decisive and sustained actions.

“Increasing the number and quality of all categories of health care workers by placing more emphasis on staff training and skill-upgrading and on improving remuneration and other conditions of work in the medical profession”

When elected into government, the PNCR-1G will carry out the following actions:

- re- evaluate all current HIV/AIDS programmes to measure success or failure;
- launch a massive public awareness campaign, using modern techniques in social marketing;
- establish sensitization workshops in rural and interior communities;
- introduce sex education in schools countrywide;
- Increase and improve condom distribution;
- Increase networking particularly with businesses and churches to spread awareness of HIV/AIDS;
- create a watchdog centre to monitor HIV/AIDS persons who knowingly spread the virus;
- amend national laws to prosecute HIV/AIDS persons who knowingly spread the virus.

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SPORTS and RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Under the PNC's Administration, sports and recreation were front-burner government concerns. During that period there existed many vibrant sports associations, and inter-school sports competitions were well established and eagerly anticipated by all schoolchildren. Guyana was a regional power in such sports as boxing, squash, chess, football, cricket, athletics and table tennis. This was the time when Guyana had many recognised sports heroes. This is a nation that has won Olympic and Commonwealth medals. Today, we are a shadow of our former self.

The PNCR-1G government wants to return sports and recreation back on to the national agenda for three main reasons:

- (i) as part of our efforts to create a healthy and happy lifestyle for all Guyanese;
- (ii) to give our young people the opportunities to keep fit, focused and active in an organised way; and
- (iii) to make Guyana a regional and international sporting power, thereby regaining our national pride.

To achieve these goals, the PNCR-1G administration will:

- take sports off the streets. We will build a network of sports and recreational facilities across the country. We will seek assistance from international sports associations to build, in our first term, well-equipped gyms, sports grounds, parks, courts, and training facilities in communities and schools;
- provide financial and other support to local sports associations based on their submission of annual programmes;
- implement measures to make sports gear and equipment affordable;
- rebuild the stock of sports coaches and trainers;
- promote sports as an integral part of the curricula of schools. We will con-

sider using re-equipped community centres and grounds as sports venues for schools in the surrounding neighbourhood.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE



The PNCR-IG government's policy on Indigenous people will be based on its long-held recognition of the Indigenous people as important stakeholders in this country.

In particular, we will work with Indigenous communities to:

- establish a consultation protocol for continuous and open discussions of their concerns;
- review the Amerindian Act to reflect the wishes and concerns of the Indigenous peoples;
- increase the minimum number of regional seats to the Parliament from interior Regions from one to two, in the first instance, and review the overall number of

geographical constituencies to achieve more effective representation of the people;

- protect Amerindian culture and society from any negative impacts of mining and other economic activity in the Hinterland;
- allocate special funding to the Amerindian Studies Unit at UG;
- create an Indigenous People's Development Fund from part of the royalties from mining, forestry and other economic ventures;
- provide greater employment opportunities for Indigenous people by attracting local and foreign investment into the hinterland areas.

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The protection and maintenance of the physical environment is one of the major challenges to our development goals. The threats to our economy of disasters resulting from the fragility of our infrastructure and its vulnerability to environmental conditions lead to low levels of production, destruction of livelihoods, the vulnerability of our export sectors and the persistence of poverty.



The PNCR-1G government will put in place a comprehensive programme of disaster and environmental hazard preparedness. The current cycle of poor planning and haphazard responses not only causes great hardship to the ordinary citizens, but will hinder our prospects for economic growth if it is not broken.

To that end we will:

- establish a National Disaster and Environmental Hazard Commission which will include all relevant stakeholders such as NGO's, Government and other political organizations;
- install regional committees to coordinate the response at the local level;

- install modern weather forecasting and hazard monitoring equipment to improve our ability to forecast;
- put in place comprehensive system of stockpiling equipment and material to cope with hazards and disasters;
- modernise the system of D&I maintenance, seas defence maintenance and control.

The PNCR-1G will establish a high level study to consider the long and medium term impacts on Guyana of global warming and the feasibility for the location of new investment and settlement away from the coast.

The PNC has had a proud tradition of projecting Guyana on the world stage. We believe that strong foreign policy and a highly skilled foreign service play a vital part in our development as a nation. This is even more important in our current globalised world economy in which the capacity to negotiate with the rest of the world both in business and governmental circles is essential.

We intend to:

- take emergency action to reform our Foreign Service so that Guyana can once again hold its own on the world stage;
- place the Caricom grouping at the forefront of our foreign policy;
- develop continental links to make use of our strategic location as an English speaking country;
- stabilize our relations with our neighbours.

A CULTURE OF CONFIDENCE

We are convinced that the best path, indeed the only path for Guyana out of our current dilemmas is to change our people and our culture to make us vigorous competitors in the world economy, rather than mendicants dependent on the good will and charity of others. To begin that process, we will work with our partners in civil society and business to change the culture of our country from the school to the factory to the field. We will lead ONE Guyana to a culture of good governance and a culture of development. We shall not sit back and wait for alms and relief, but seek partnerships with the world around us. A world in which low priced high skill workers and entrepreneurs have com-

petitive advantage is one in which Guyana can compete and grow. It is one in which we can make a mark, but only if all our people, whether they be our young in school, our tertiary students, our public servants, our business community, our political leadership and civil society become convinced once again that Guyana is a viable state and that we are not compelled to be numbered among the world's basket cases. The spirit of creativity and enterprise, the spirit of innovation and competition can be taught and instilled in our people. The success of our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora tells us that all we as Guyanese need is a chance to perform

CONCLUSION

The PNCR-1G is extremely excited by the ideas and plans outlined in our Manifesto. We have thought long and hard and have consulted widely. These are your aspirations and dreams. Hence, our views on many of the issues are not cast in stone. This manifesto is therefore a document for public discussion and refinement.

Having good ideas is one thing. But one also needs the will to implement — the competence to implement effectively and the opportunity to implement. The PNCR-1G has gathered a team of people who can deliver on the plans we have crafted to bring peace and prosperity to this Nation.

The fate of this dear land is in your hands. We beseech you to vote wisely. On August 28th as you exercise your vote, do so with the knowledge and insight that the PNCR-1G is the best choice in ensuring that you attain the quality of life you have always wanted for yourself and loved ones.

Let's move forward as One Guyana.... for the good of us all.

May God bless you and our beloved country.

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with 1 GUYANA**



People's National Congress Reform

MANIFESTO

2006

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Vote

PNCR-1 G

