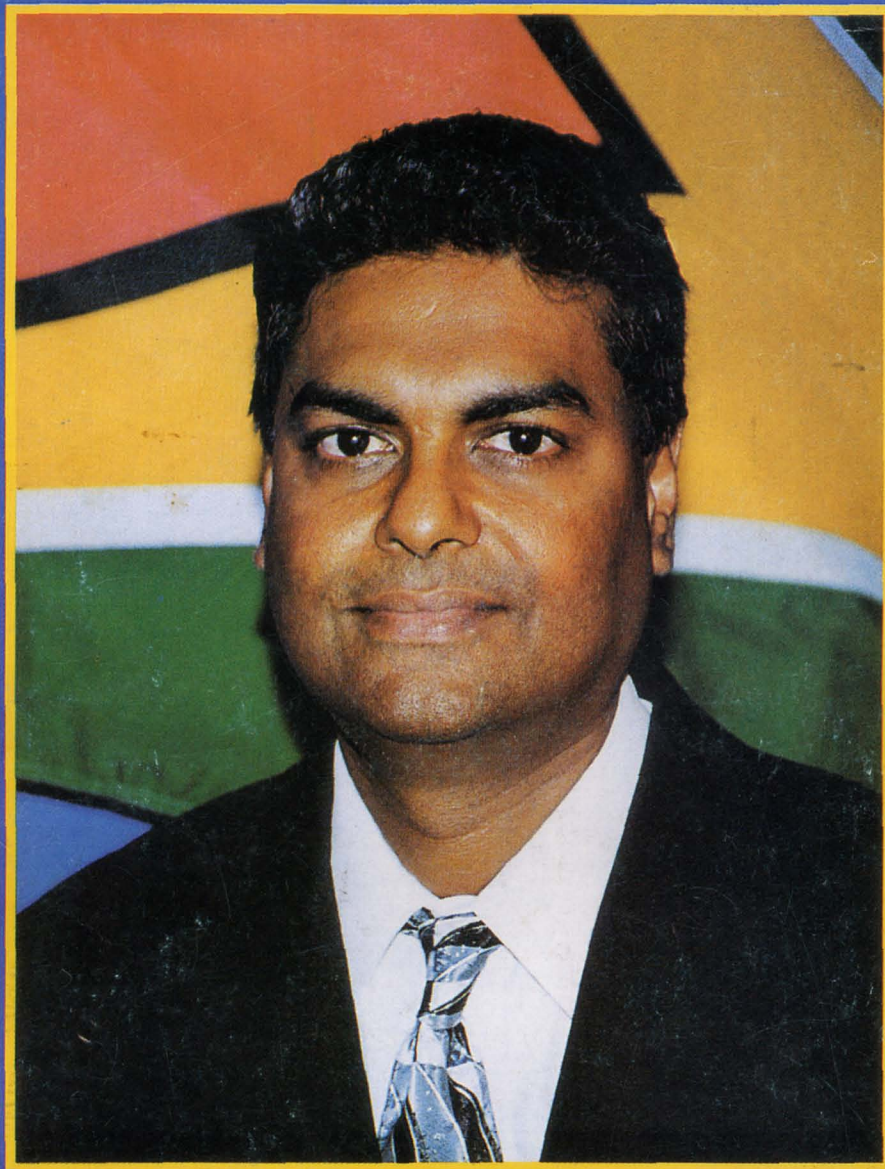


MANZOOR NADIR

P
E
O
P
L
E'
S



C
H
O
I
C
E

FOR
PRESIDENT

THE
UNITED
FORCE



X



THE UNITED FORCE MANIFESTO

Statement from the Political Leader Mr. Manzoor Nadir

My Fellow Guyanese,

Our nation, Guyana was born on May 26th 1966. It is our nation, it is our children's legacy. For every Guyanese, this birth should have been a glorious event. With this birth we expected hope, faith and the aspiration of the bright promise of all that is newly born. History has recorded that this was not to be. The birth of our nation has not brought the progress expected. We who must live under her flag MUST shape her destiny through the Government we will elect.

As you are aware, this election takes place against the backdrop of our nation being at the crossroads of change. Sadly the nation have lost the astute leadership of Cheddi Jagan, a pillar of human strength, a dedicated, devoted and compassionate man.

To the problems of:

- * Guyana economic positioning within the Global Village in the next millennium
- * Attracting Foreign Investment
- * Mastering the new technologies that is required to transform the productive sectors
- * Developing the Country's Infrastructure
- * Creating a Master Economic Plan for Guyana
- * Sustainable economic development within a framework of environmental protection.
- * The establishment of the Civil Society

In this Election the Guyanese electorate must determine the quality of the leadership for our nation in the next century. To ready itself for the task ahead at hand, TUF has undergone fundamental change, both in direction and the outlook. TUF is offering to the people of Guyana a new vision with clearly defined policies and pragmatic programs.

The United Force has a rich political history for outlining its philosophy and making clear its beliefs. We have outlined what our elected

representatives should set out as our new goals; and we set forth our plan to develop our country so that there will be a meaningful quality life for all.

We believe that the Government must fill the basic needs of our people. We have carefully analyzed what these needs are and what mechanism must be put in place to enable everyone to satisfy their needs.

We reaffirm our belief in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. We have shown without any doubt that our policies and economic ideals are in complete conformity with the United Nations Declaration.

We have outlined in detail a development plan to build a better and brighter Guyana. The plan includes the provision for every Guyanese to become financially strong enough for security, a home, land, dignity and self-respect. We honestly believe that our ideals are in conformity with the aspirations of every Guyanese and that the best and quickest way to achieve them is through the acceptance of our plan.

We seek harmony between people of all races, religions and regions in our dear land for today and for the days to come. We put behind the pains and sufferings, the resentments and regrets of yesteryear. We look only towards QUALITY LIFE in the shining of the 21st century, for us and our children's children.

I ask that in pondering for whom you should vote, you take such considerations as credibility, integrity, honesty and regional and international goodwill into account. Ours is a team of experience, competence, youthfulness and commitment. Fellow Guyanese, TOGETHER WE CAN TAKE CONTROL OF GUYANA'S FUTURE



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

Our Beloved Country GUYANA WILL BE VICTORIOUS THE PEOPLES OF OUR NATION ARE CRYING OUT FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE

The political philosophy of The United Force sets out our vision for Guyana of the year 2000 and beyond, a future based upon on the aspirations of individuals and their families- their hopes, their needs, their security. This country yearns for an era of real prosperity with honesty and self respect. A vast change separates the GUYANA of today from the GUYANA of the 1950's and the 1960's. This democratically elected Government staggered from crisis to crisis: industrial action continued, they allowed the rubbish to pile up in the streets, water woes continued, prices of food, medicines and school books escalated. The country was gripped by a creeping paralysis which the PPP/Civic Administration is powerless to cure. It seems in retrospect to be the history of another country. Yet these things happen and our people accept them as a part of everyday life.

The policy of the United Force, is to govern, not by extreme measures but, in the spirit of unity and total cooperation of everyone from the youngest to the oldest. The focus of The United Force is investment in people to promote production and marketing skills, promotion of training, research and development. The products are the ingredients of economic vitality, and the foundations of social harmony. The United Force foundation pillars that were created in the late 1960's have been the source of inspiration during periods of national and political crisis. Our nation must be founded on a strong economy. Success will and must follow example, prudent financial planning will be a positive way to ensure economic stability. The United Force understands the necessity for our people to regain our self-respect if the country's greatness is to be restored.

The United Force sees the need for programs of positive reforms. We will focus on:

- ⇒ Strengthening Community Ties and the Investment in people.
- ⇒ The creation and implementation of innovative solutions to the problems of unemployment, crime, education, the escalating cost of living and the public utilities must be found.
- ⇒ We must commit resources to the modernizing and the strengthening of our industries and services that earn Guyana a living



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

- ⇒ We must ensure the expansion that is necessary for a lasting economic recovery
- ⇒ The pursuit of policies of sound financial management, the conquest of inflation, the promotion of enterprise and the growth of career employment
- ⇒ The giving to people of greater choices and responsibilities over their own lives in important areas such as housing and education
- ⇒ The improvement of the well-being of the people through better health care, the provision of basic services and the safeguarding of the living standards of those who have to depend on the community
- ⇒ The exercise of wise leadership to protect the nation against potential aggression and the citizens against lawlessness
- ⇒ The continual reviving of the spirit of our people and the restoring of the reputation of our country

What is this election about? What kind of Guyana do we want for ourselves and our children?

We want a country that recognizes the values of honesty, decency and community. In the Age of globalization, we want to belong to a national community that feels distinctively ours. We want to support our families and local communities as the sources of our social stability and economic strength. We want a country whose economy encourages entrepreneurs, creates wealth and distributes it fairly. That economy must be innovative, export oriented, efficient and free of bureaucratic delays. We want a country where the burdens of the water rates, of utility rates and other taxes are fair, not just unjust actions particularly on small businesses and home owners.

We want a country that is at the leading edge in its technologies and that profits from that advantage to export products and services around the world. We want a country whose government is efficient, not corrupt, innovative and co-operative with religious organization, businesses, labor, the learning sector, environmentalists, volunteer groups and non-governmental while honoring our obligation to the world community in the United Nation, and such international institutions of which we are members. We want to see ourselves as a success, as a country that is efficient, that solves problems, a country that works, and in so doing so serves as a model for other countries around the world. This can be achieved in an atmosphere of decency and with morality in public life despite our size.

The basic requirement for a good Government is to fulfill the needs of the people. It is widely believed that there are five (5) basic needs that the human being demands for fulfillment. These needs are:

- * *The right to believe in the Supreme Being*
- * *The right to be alive ; to be healthy*
- * *The feeling of importance; of prestige and of love*
- * *The warmth of someone's love ; someone to love me*
- * *The opportunity for a little variety ; something new, a little different*

These are the five basic human needs, the inescapable urges which every human being seeks to satisfy.

How does this concern Government? The family is the natural and fundamental unit within the state. The state itself has evolved out of the need for families to form into larger groups for mutual protection and assistance. The function of the government of the state is thus an extension of the function of the head of the family. The needs that parents seek to fill for their children, the good government seeks to have filled for its citizens. At the same time a good government seeks to create a State in which every adult irrespective of their race, religion or creed is self-reliant and financially independent. In outlining this concept for a good government, we reaffirm our faith in the United Force Charter which says:

“ We believe that the purpose of Government is to fulfill the needs of the people
A good government will create the opportunity for all the people to satisfy their basic needs”



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

A New Political Institution and A New Political Culture

1. An Overview of the existing political arrangements.
2. A critical analysis of the effectiveness of the existing political institutions and the political system in the representative democratic process.
3. A re-examination of the relevance of the Westminster Whitehall model to our plural society, Guyana.
4. A contemporary perspective of the role of the state with specific emphasis on the political economy.
5. Defining Guyana's political culture.
6. Creating and developing a new political culture for Guyana.
7. A review of contemporary political writings - New Political Thinking.
8. A Comparative Analysis of the Lessons of Mauritius, Fiji, Surinam, Swiss model and the contemporary Taiwan experience.
9. A re-examination of conventional democracy and its relevance to the foundation political principles of the opposition party.
10. Offering proposals and recommendations that would make this political institution and political system of greater relevance to the principles of Representative Democracy.

APPRAISAL OF THE PPP / CIVIC PERFORMANCE

The year is 1966. The entire nation dreamt of building together our independent country Guyana, economically strong, socially just, where all are equal before the law, proud of diversity, and characterized by integrity, meritocracy, compassion and competence. Today we must ask ourselves the following questions: Is our economy helping out the few whilst leaving out the many? Where is the hope for our society? What about our poverty levels? What has this done and continues to do to our social fabric? What is the status of ethnic relationships in Guyana? What is the true market value of the Guyanese Dollar in the key currencies: the German Mark, the Japanese Yen, the United States Dollar and the United Kingdom Sterling Pound. For an overwhelming number of our fellow citizens. Hope for Tomorrow has turned into Fear of the Future.

The PPP/Civic Administration has been characterized by:

- ⇒ *Increases in the prices of basic food prices flour, rice, cheese, milk, potatoes, chicken, bread etc., not to mention cooking gas and gasoline, in spite of famous promises that prices will fall flat.*
- ⇒ *Increases in the price of school book*
- ⇒ *Increase in taxes*
- ⇒ *Further Devaluation of the Guyanese Dollar*
- ⇒ *Increase in levels of under-employment and poverty*
- ⇒ *Increase in the numbers of homeless people*
- ⇒ *Increase in the number of children unable to obtain secondary school places*
- ⇒ *The increase in the levels of the most serious crimes*
- ⇒ *The wholesale disposal of the country's national assets to foreign interest*
- ⇒ *The lack of honest leadership*
- ⇒ *The shameless use of deception, propaganda and empty promises*
- ⇒ *The lack of proposals for Parliamentary Reforms*
- ⇒ *The lack of an Environment Policy*
- ⇒ *The lack of a National Program to revitalize and diversify the economy*
- ⇒ *The lack of a clearly defined Program for Income distribution, remedial training and wealth creation*
- ⇒ *The lack of effective policies to address the origins of crime*
- ⇒ *The lack of tougher punishment for the most serious crimes*



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

"Guyana is a country blessed with tremendous resources, but also burdened with tremendous problems. Sustaining the recovery effort, and transforming it into continuous long term growth and development will require a major effort on the part of the government. The biggest problems now lie particularly in improving the functioning of the public sector, and the provisions of adequate infrastructure for development". World Bank Country Study - Guyana From Economic Recovery to Sustainable Development

A key factor will be the ability of the Government to continue the reform program, maintain a system of undistorted factor and commodity markets and a stable macro-economic environment, raise the efficiency of the public sector, and provide an improved level of supporting public infrastructure. The United Force understands the special economic significance of:

- ⇒ A major adjustment of public sector wages to levels more competitive with the private sector
 - ⇒ A significant increase in the real level of maintenance and operating expenditures, particularly for the health and education sectors
 - ⇒ A major overhaul of the tax system
 - ⇒ The development of an employment program that seeks to reduce unemployment in the short to medium term
 - ⇒ The separation of economic planning and economic implementation from the political elite
- The United Force suggests that we need examine different options when dealing with the issue of the Guyana's economy. The United Force proposes that:-
1. We consider the lowering of the rate of taxation
 2. To increase the rate of the development of our natural resources

Lowering the Tax rate: The people of Guyana have been carrying too heavy a tax burden, especially over the past four years. Taxes, that affect people have grown by more than 245% between 1992-1996. This will rise to an increase of more than 275% by the end of the 1997 financial year. In terms of dollar figures we are speaking of a tax burden of \$11.8 billion dollars to one of \$30 billion by the end of this year. This is too huge a burden for the people to carry. In some instances the consumption taxes are involved, government has paid little attention to increasing price rather than increasing volume as a result of inflation, for example, the consumption tax on fuel and overseas telephone calls. The injustice of our tax system is clearly illustrated when employed people pay eight times the tax paid by the self-employed, this is not only clearly evident but it is also dangerous. This concentration of wealth among a small percentage of our society may on the surface appear to be attractive to those benefitting. However we should be aware of the fact that this inequity may result in a social backlash from which no one can escape unscathed. Remember that in 1993, the Then Minister Asgar Ally announced a tax reform program but sadly the subsequent budgets have led to considerable uncertainty about the extent and direction of these reforms. Imaginative and aggressive measures are clearly necessary

The Development of our Natural Resources: It is clear that there has been no country which can develop out of its income taxes, consumption taxes and duties. For us here we have to restructure the tax regime in order to provide some form of equity in the system.

The United Force has no apology for its position in having privatization as a matter of ideology, we recognize that privatization is not a panacea for all of the problems with managing our economy today. However, if government does not privatize the productive sectors of our economy we will continue to limp along with incremental growth.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

An effective public sector is the major facilitator for the private sector and executor of government policies. The Government must move speedily to level with their employees demanding a full and fair day's work for a decent wage. The sacrifices have been considerable but there have been economic successes as well even if these were not fairly distributed. The economic restructuring has not been accompanied by the necessary political and social changes. Unless all the country's leaders commit themselves to addressing those needs urgently the gains can easily be evaporated

Whether the majority of Guyana shares the optimism of the IMF is debatable for poverty and its attendant consequences continue to haunt their lives. More importantly the need to re-engineer our political culture and structures and to address some very serious social problems including crime and drugs has little effective attention from successive political administrations.

The Minister of Finance Bharat Jagdeo, boldly predicts a 4% inflation rate in 1997, which is at least a couple of points higher than the projection for the developed world. However some economists suggest that the low rates in these countries resulted from a weak demand and below average economic performance. The Budget is following the IMF - World Bank economic mode.

The United Force policies will not undermine the value of money, but will seek to establish a stable economic framework in which the business can flourish. Our nation has to be taught how not to spend money before we earn it. We have to increase savings and massively rebuild our international assets. A United Force government is committed to Equitable Distribution of Wealth. Imagine the national wealth as one big cake. How can this be distributed equitably?

There are three ways to do it:-

1. Keep making the cake bigger so there is more to go around.
2. Keep giving better opportunities to those who don't have a slice to get a slice.
3. Keep taking away something from those who have more than enough so that others can get.

KEEP MAKING THE CAKE BIGGER

Equitable distribution cannot be achieved by a single wholesome confiscation followed by re-distribution. In Guyana at the time there is just not enough to go around. If all the wealth of Guyana was confiscated and given to everyone in equal shares, each person would get only about US\$500. After that, production of wealth would cease. No one would get anything more. The answer is to create, not confiscate; to build, not destroy; to produce more so that there will be more for all. In a good State the National Wealth is continually increasing and there is a continuing re-distribution.

KEEP GIVING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TO ACQUIRE

The increasing National Wealth must provide a better opportunity for everyone to share in it. This means that everyone must have an opportunity to earn enough to provide for himself "a full life" and to acquire property. With continually increasing National Wealth, wages must keep increasing. A better wage is a means of getting a better share. The United Force will seek to establish a Development Bank and a Stock Market. Both of these institutions offer the best means of raising and allocating funds to business.

KEEP TAKING AWAY SOMETHING

Even if everyone has a fair chance to acquire property, some will inevitably acquire more than others. In order to give everyone a better chance to acquire enough, something is taken from those that have more than enough. This is done by fair taxation. Taxation is not for the purpose of increasing the property of the state; nor is it for the purpose of confiscating the property of individuals. Rather, it is for the purpose of creating a State in which everyone will enjoy "a full life".



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

In The United Force Government, there will be an "economic dynamism" which derives from individuals taking advantage of their opportunities and using their initiative in acquiring property. Both the effort of the State itself and the cumulative effort of individuals working within it, contribute to the ever-increasing production of National Wealth. The whole effort is directed toward ever producing a bigger cake so that everyone gets a bigger slice.

EMPLOYMENT

(a) PLAN FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

The most urgent need of our country is to establish a PLAN FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT. Clearly, it is impossible to employ all our people overnight. A plan must be established stretching over a number of years. The United Force plan is to create FULL EMPLOYMENT IN 5 YEARS.

First, we must establish the total number of new jobs that need to be created to provide full employment in 5 years. It must be very clear that The United Force will provide opportunities for our Secondary School students to pursue higher education at the Technical, University and Vocational levels.

OUR PLAN FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT IS TO CREATE 50,000 NEW JOBS WITHIN 5 YEARS.

We outline below this plan under seven headings: General Policy for Employment of Guyanese Plan to Create 50,000 New Jobs - Capital Needed to Fulfill Plan.

Plan to Obtain Capital From Four Sources.

1. A Blueprint For A Better Guyana.
2. Need To Know About Capital.
3. How To Attract The Necessary Capital.
4. General Policy For Employment of Guyanese

Our policy is to create jobs for Guyanese. We have a great country. It is underpopulated and underdeveloped. Yet in it the people are unemployed and under-employed.

The density of population is only about 7 persons per square mile. By comparison the population densities in some countries are:-

Guyana	7
Trinidad	418
Barbados	1,395
Puerto Rico	684
India	371
United Kingdom	559

This means that the land of Trinidad is providing approximately 60 times more per square mile than ours; and Barbados is providing approximately 156 times more! It is shameful that with all our land and resources so many Guyanese citizens are unemployed. We believe we can develop Guyana so that every Guyanese will be fully employed and there will be a scarcity of labor. When this time comes workers from overseas will be welcome to our country.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

POLICY TOWARDS EXPATRIATES

We realize that despite unemployment of Guyanese, it is necessary to employ persons from overseas (expatriates) to fill posts for which no Guyanese is technically qualified. Our policy towards expatriates is therefore two-fold:

1. To discourage employment of expatriates in posts which could be filled by Guyanese. To encourage the employment of the most highly qualified expatriates for the purpose of training Guyanese to fill technical posts and for the development of new industries in which new employment will be created for Guyanese.
2. In order to effect this policy, technically qualified expatriates employed for the purpose of training Guyanese or developing a new industry will be allowed exemption from personal income tax for the period of training or development.

INCENTIVES FOR GUYANESE

Technical training at the Technical Institute and the University of Guyana will be expanded with the object of training Guyanese in fields that are in short supply for our Economic Takeoff. Companies will be encouraged by tax incentives to send employees for technical training to the Technical Institute and the University of Guyana.

In order to encourage technically trained and qualified Guyanese to return to Guyana, all Guyanese returning from overseas with technical qualifications which have required 3 or more years training will be allowed exemption from personal income tax for a period of 3 years after their return. It is felt that this may also help to compensate for the cost of overseas training. For the purpose of employment we define Guyanese as meaning: anyone born in Guyana or who has a parent born in Guyana or who has lived in Guyana for 10 years or more or who is married to anyone who was born in Guyana.

It must not be forgotten that the richest country in the world - the United States of America - was developed by immigrants and foreign capital. The United States of America was formerly a British colony like us. The United States of America became independent and rich through foreign capital and immigrants. So did Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and others. So why should not we?

(b) PLAN TO CREATE 50,000 NEW JOBS

We plan to create 50,000 new jobs in 5 years. We plan to create these jobs in four fields of employment. We list below the four fields of employment with the number of new jobs we aim to create in each.

1. Farming & Agro Industry *3,000 per year - 15,000 after 5 years*
2. Construction & Transport *3,000 per year - 15,000 after 5 years*
3. Manufacturing *2,000 per year - 10,000 after 5 years*
4. Service Industry *2,000 per year - 10,000 after 5 years*

Total 10,000 per year 50,000 after 5 years



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

We outline below how the requisite number of jobs will be created in each of the four major fields of new employment.

1) FARMING

Our plan is to provide within 5 years 15,000 farmers with new land of approximately 50 acres each.

Present Performance: What has Government already done to fill the people's need for land? Very little.

The land is leased to the farmers by the Government. The farmers settled on the new lands are compelled forever to pay rent to their landlord, the Government. They can never enjoy the prestige of ownership of their own land. Without ownership, loans for development of the land they work cannot be obtained. Without ownership, they cannot build securely for their future. The renter of land can have no permanent interest in improving the land. This is one reason why Socialist schemes of Agriculture in China, Cuba and Russia have failed so dismally.

OUR PLAN

Guyana's greatest asset after our people is our land. Most of it is still unused. The unused land is the people's land. It should be providing livelihood for everyone. It should be made available to the people. It is simple enough. Our "Magic Circle" road plan will encircle with roads more than ten million acres of virgin land. There will be access to this virgin land by road from Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Linden, Parika and Charity.

A minimum plot of 50 acres of this land will be given to each farmer who settles on it. Thus 15,000 new farmers will be provided with land and livelihood within five years. The land will be will be given free to farmers who settle on it and use it. The size of the plot will depend upon the profit potential of the land in the particular area. Our policy for development of new lands is FREEHOLD TRANSPORTED LAND FREE TO FARMERS. The income derived by farmers from the working of all land will be free of income tax. Farmers will pay an acreage levy on their holding only. All input to the preparation of the land will be free of duty.

2) CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORT

Our target is to provide 15,000 new jobs within 5 years through new construction and new transport services.

OUR PLAN

(a) Construction

Home building is one of the most labor intensive of industries; it creates a lot of employment in relation to money invested. It helps the economy by stimulating other local industries, particularly timber and furniture. It is our plan to stimulate the building of homes for workers and for farmers. Our plan will encourage workers and farmers to own and occupy their own homes.

(b) Transport

Our road program is bound to expand road transport and employment in road vehicles. Guyana is forty times as big as Trinidad, yet Trinidad has more than ten times as many miles of good road than Guyana. We estimated our road policy will be attractive in rapidly increasing road transport, thus providing numerous new jobs.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

3) PRIVATE INDUSTRIES

Our target is to create 20,000 new jobs in private industries within five years. Our Plan: The establishment of new industries depends upon many factors which go towards creating a climate favorable for the growth of new industries. New industries require capital and a good climate to attract capital is necessary. The United Force Government will encourage the establishment of Private Educational Facilities to train individuals and group towards operating their own business.

Electricity - The inadequate generation and poor supply of this vital sector has been the number one factor for very slow progress. Companies had to spend their scarce resource on generator for power, thus taking away from real investment. The United Force will move speedily to correct this by firstly enhancing our lines system to reduce the likelihood of power loss on the lines. Transformers will be brought in to boost the supply of electricity to all areas. At the same time the Government will spend approximately US\$500 million to bring our hydro project to a reality. When the system begins to operate fully, Government will offer for privatization to Guyanese conglomerate.

Communication - The United Force Government will work towards fulfilling a plan to have a phone in every home. The telecommunication industry will be revolutionized and modernized to face the reality of the 21st Century. We will pursue a facilitating and working relation with GT&T. There will be opportunity for other companies to invest in the wireless telephone system.

Customs - This department is the Chief Revenue Source of the Government at the present time. The entire operation of customs will be reorganized to ensure efficiency, confidence and trust by the general public. Clearing of goods will be hassle free. The Customs department has been operating under a system of Under Invoicing and other forms of malpractice. The entire system has lost credibility. The United Force policy will deal with importers through the honor system. We will accept all invoices at face value. However, random checks will be done and whenever declarations are false, the importer will be dealt with severely. All barrels will be cleared on a cash and carry basis. Random inspection will also be done.

Inland Revenue - The Inland Revenue will be decentralized. Every Regional Office will have a branch of the Inland Revenue department. This department must be a friend of the citizen and not a bitter enemy. There will be frequent training from this department to educate our citizens on their role in the development process. The United Force Government will introduce a simple and effective tax system. Companies will be encouraged to pay their taxes monthly or quarterly to the Inland Revenue. Farmers will be encouraged to pay their acreage levy after the harvest of their crop. This can be done monthly, quarterly or half yearly or whatever is best suited to the farmer. There will be generous tax holidays for all new and existing companies whether local or foreign which intends to modernize their plant and machinery and further expansion. This plan is intended to increase the rate of compliance, to increase revenue and offer to manufacturing sector the incentives necessary to face the global challenges of the 21st century free trade. Some of the mechanism to be put in place after the first budget presentation of The United Force Government will be as follows:

Income Tax on Individuals	- First \$30,000 per month tax free.
	- Tax rate of 20% on amount above this free pay.
Corporation Tax	- Manufacturing Company - tax rate 25% on profits
	- Trading Company - tax rate 35% on profits
Property Tax on Individuals	- To be abolished
Interest on savings account	- To be abolished
Private Schools	- Tax holidays for five years.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

Manufacturing input	- All material relevant to production will be duty free
Agricultural input	- All material relevant to agriculture will be duty free
Capital Gains Tax	- To be reduced to 10% on profit.
Betting	- Tax on winnings will be abolish
Consumption tax	- On manufactured goods locally - tax to be reduced by 50% with the plan to have a low flat rate.
Foreign entertainers	- 2 1/2% tax on gross receipt of shows.
Minibuses	- \$15,000 tax per quarter
Taxi and hire cars	- \$ 1 0,000 tax per quarter
Parlor	- \$25,000 tax per quarter
Liquor restaurant	- \$50,000 tax per quarter

NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME

The United Force Government will make this scheme an autonomous body. The scheme must report on their performance to the Parliament of Guyana annually. The Audit Committee of Parliament will appoint the auditor for the scheme whose findings will be tabled for discussion.

3. CAPITAL NEEDED TO FULFIL PLAN

What must Government do to create the 50,000 jobs in the four fields of employment? First, permanent employment can only be created by: Opening of new industries for people to work in. Opening up new lands for farmers to work on. There is no other way to do it. We have advantages which many other nations don't have. We have land. Plenty of land. Our unused land could be our greatest source of employment and wealth. On it many new crops can be grown. Under it many valuable minerals which is now unexplored could be developed. The obstacle with this great surge of development by the present government is lack of capital and technique to provide and use the machine power - to develop our land.

New employment can only be created by new capital expenditure. As we have already explained, the creation of wealth requires Manpower and Machine power. Manpower means men and women employed and Machine power means capital employed. Thus, to create jobs capital must be spent. To provide full employment we simply must get this capital. From where can we get this amount of money? How best can we use it to achieve our objective of creating full employment? We have prepared a plan to raise a target sum of US\$3 billion in the first year of Government from four sources. We have prepared a plan for the most beneficial use of this capital in four sectors of development. We will now outline these plans.

PLAN TO OBTAIN CAPITAL

We have identified five areas from where the capital required for our development will flow. These are:

- (1) Our own Government - this really amounts to money obtained from our own people through taxes paid by them to Government, or through savings invested by them in Government Securities, the money being used by Government for development projects.
- (2) Local private/business sources - this is money saved by local people and companies and invested directly by them in industrial development projects.
- (3) Foreign companies - this is money obtained from foreign company for investment in industrial development projects.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

(4) Foreign private sources - this is money saved by people overseas and invested by them in Government Securities, the money being used by Government for development projects and lending to local companies for capitalization of assets.

(5) Land for Road Development - for every mile of new road constructed, 10,000 acres of land will be made available to the developer.

It is our plan to attract as much capital as possible from each one of these sources. Indeed it is essential to do this. So much capital is needed, every possible source must be tapped.

	SOURCE OF CAPITAL	FIRST YEAR TARGET
1.	Guyana Government	US\$178 million
2.	Local/ Business	US\$100 million
3.	Foreign companies	US\$500 million
4.	Foreign private source	US\$2 billion
5.	Road Developer	US\$500 million

Every investor will be given interest rate higher than that currently in force in the United States bank. There will be a 5 years fixed deposit scheme secured on the Consolidated Funds. Persons will be allowed, if desirous to convert their fixed savings to equity capital for any investment in Guyana. Interest will be computed yearly.

We estimate that the effect of completion of our Road Development Policy will be to increase revenue from roads. By revenue from roads we mean the revenue that Government gets from import duties in motor vehicles, motor vehicles licenses and taxation on gasoline and diesel.

We believe that the rate of taxation must be lower to encourage every Guyanese to purchase a motor vehicle. We will create over 50,000 new jobs which will increase the amount of money in circulation. This will mean that more people will purchase more goods. More goods will be manufactured and imported and sold without any increase in taxation. More revenue will go to the Government from Customs. The effect of more money in circulation, the effect of a tremendous upsurge in home-building and farming will have beneficial results from the oil industry and trade in general.

Another way to estimate the total increase in revenue is to estimate the total increase in Gross Domestic Product which will result from the development plan, and then to calculate the increase in revenue as a proportion of the GDP. Economists calculate that for every \$5 million properly spent on productive development an increase of \$1 million in the GDP can be reasonably anticipated. Thus if \$3 billion is spent on development, the anticipated increase in GDP will be \$600 million.

CAPITAL FOR FARM DEVELOPMENT

Our policy is to set up the Guyanese farmers as a prosperous, independent citizen owning his own farm. The United Force Government will set LIP an Agricultural Development Fund which will service the debt of all farms. All invoices to farmers not paid within two weeks of the receipt of goods will be paid from this fund. The fund will collect the amount paid to the farmers from these Creditors. The fund will be set up with an initial Capital of G\$3 billion.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

We estimate that the 15,000 farmers settling on new lands given to them by the Government will spend an average of US\$3,000 each per year out of their own savings or earnings on their land. This would be easier for them because they will have no rent to pay and no income tax. The United Force will be able to give Commercial Banks tax credit for loans given to farmers.

CAPITAL FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Our policy is to set up the Guyanese worker as an independent citizen, proud of his national status and his position as a home owner. We plan, through the Home Purchase Plan and other incentives, to create 10,000 new home-owners each year. We estimate each home purchaser will contribute an average of US\$500 per year out of his own earnings towards the rental purchase of his own home, instead of paying rent to a landlord. We estimate that the average cost of each home will be US\$7,000 and that the total investment necessary to build 15,000 homes will be US\$105 million. We will encourage Home Purchase Mortgage loans over the 5 year period.

CAPITAL FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Our plan estimates capital to be spent on new industries and expansion of existing industries. This includes capital investment in road transport. Our estimate for investment in industrial development is based on the assumption that a more favorable climate for industry will accelerate development of new and existing industries. New highways will make many projects in the interior feasible, that were not so before, due to lack of and high cost of transport. Our program to expand geological surveys should accelerate development of new mining industries. If such industries as gold, diamond, copper and oil were to be developed, our industrial target would easily be surpassed.

CAPITAL TO PROVIDE CREDIT FACILITIES

Greatly expanded credit facilities will be necessary - to enable farmers to establish themselves on new lands; to enable workers to own their own homes; to enable enterprising people to start new industries. The amounts advanced to farmers, workers and enterprises will be secured by the land, buildings and machinery upon which the advances are to be spent.

PUBLIC DEBT

Too much is said by the PPP administration about the Public Debt being a burden to national Development. In 1996, the public debt was US\$2.2 billion and revenue US\$214 million. The debt was thus 10 years revenue. In 1961, the debt was 1.8 years revenue. Our plan would be to bring our public debt to 3 years revenue. The United Force plan for Guyana will create the resources necessary to service our debt. There will be no new borrowing from International Financial Institutions (IFI).



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

AMERINDIANS

Overview of the Amerindians: The Amerindians, the aborigines of Guiana, have made many a contribution to the development of Guyana. Throughout our colonial history and sadly even today, the Amerindians were neglected. It is due to this neglect that the Amerindians have a genuine cause for complaint. Their real grievance is that they have been at best ignored, at worst treated like museum pieces. After thirty years of independence and different administrations, the Amerindians have as a collective unit not yet become accepted as part of the national community. Images of sheer human suffering haunts the landscape of the Amerindian life, poverty, dilapidated housing, children suffering from malaria, inadequate medical staff and medical supplies and unemployment haunts the daily life of the Amerindians. The United Force will strive to ensure good governance of the region. That all administrative officers, whatever their political persuasions work together as a team for the well being and development of the region. The United Force will see to it that each officer of the administration knows exactly what his duties are, and that there will be absolutely no political interference by an officer into another's officer portfolio. The United Force will ensure that all service departments of the Region, for example the Health, Agriculture, Education and Water perform efficiently. Thus bringing relief and benefits to the people of the Region. The United Force understands the personal problems that individuals face when confronted with the late payment of wages and salaries.

Policies for Amerindians / Environmental Legislation that illustrates and protect the Interior of Guyana / Infrastructure Development via Self Help Programs. The United Force will address immediately the request of Town Laws and captains for the extension of their communal lands to cater for a rapidly increasing Amerindian population. The United Force will in consultation with the village councils advise on the optimal and beneficial use of our ancestral lands. Due consideration will be given to sustainable use of Amerindian forested lands. The large tracts of Savannah lands will be converted for sheep and cattle pasturage, sinking wells and erecting windmills, to provide grazing livestock with water and grass by means of irrigation in the dry season. The preservation and protection of the environment and our ecological system will be vigorously pursued by an educational awareness program. By education and moral persuasion TUF will discourage the present disastrous practice of Savannah burning, poisoning of rivers and lakes. TUF will develop in the Ministry of Agriculture a special unit that will be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the viable fishing ponds. TUF will recommend the planting of etai trees by the appropriate communities thus ensuring the protection of the environment.

The Regularization of Landholdings for the Amerindians via NGO financial programs. TUF will weigh very carefully the question of individual titles to lands in the Amerindian Regions as against communal ownership. An Amerindian with individual title may succumb to the temptation of selling his land to outside of the community, hence subtly and imperceptibly beginning the process of complete ownership of Amerindian lands by outsiders. TUF at this stage remains firmly committed to the principles of communal ownership of lands and that the Amerindian must own the land to the Center of the Earth as espoused by the late Stephen Cambell that indomitable fighter of the Amerindian cause. Individual title will be after due consideration and suitability of each individual case. TUF will exercise due care when executing these policies of land use, bearing in mind the different cultural practices of land use as against that of the coastlander. TUF recognizes that the people of the regions by and large depends upon their rivers and creeks and forest for their very survival. TUF firmly believes that there should be consultations with the Amerindians communities before the granting of concessions to mining and logging companies in the region. There was no consultation whatsoever with the Amerindian before the granting of concessions to Vanessa and Quitaro companies. Consultation must be of a genuine nature, not a cosmetic or a window dressing exercise.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

Programs for the Amerindians / Human Resource Development via Adult Educational Literacy Programs and formal educational programs. The Unified Force will see to it that individuals desirous of being teachers would received training, and that there would be an adequate number of teachers who will staff the schools / The development of a curriculum that would be appropriate to the unique nature of the largely indigenous environment and culture will be fostered/ TUF will ensure that quality education and to this end see that the schools are fully staffed utilizing the educational resources provided. The utilizing of teachers from NGO's such as V.S.O. so as to have to complement the teaching fraternity here would be a welcome opportunity. We should note carefully here that this policy is a mere short term solution to a much deeper issue. That schools are fully equipped with laboratory to facilitate the teaching of the science subjects. That the teaching of Wapishan and Masushi dialects in the appropriate schools will be pursued. TUF recognizes the great need for more nursery schools in the country especially in the Amerindian regions. The building of nursery schools in villages and the training of teachers for these schools would be high on the TUF's agenda. TUF praises and supports the efforts of volunteer teachers in the nursery schools established by the CBR program and would fully support any move that will allow their teachers to be brought into the salaried establishment. TUF will aggressively pursue an adult education program in the Amerindian communities. Youth education programs will be developed to train youths in secretarial and administrative skills, computer, management, woodwork and carpentry, masonry and motor mechanics to stem the brain and skills drain from our country to other countries. / Encouraging the Private Sector to become Corporate sponsors to this Community / The implementation of a practical health program specifically designed for aids awareness and teenage pregnancies. A mobile dental unit must be put in commission to reduce the high levels of dental decay in the schools and villages of the Regions. There exist the urgent need for a massive deworming program of the population especially the children in the villages of the Regions. The provision of human and financial resources for the health sector is urgently required. The United Force will as a matter of urgency will establish functional X-ray units as well as fully equipped medical laboratories, at both the Lethoms and Nishaltons Hospitals. The services of a resident doctor at Nishalton Hospital would be a necessity to be met.

Vision for the Amerindians / The Development of a Tourism Plan for the Amerindians that stimulates the development of an entrepreneurial spirit and a small manufacturers sector to develop and to financially benefit from eco-tourism and cultural tourism . / The Development of an Environment Policy with specific reference to the destruction of the interior environment and its global warming effects. / The international recognition of the Amerindians as the indigenous people of Guyana / The creation of international linkages to establish International Heritage Sites

Amerindian Development

The United Force Government will, as a matter of policy, ensure that every Amerindian Reservation and every Guyanese be entitled to the Mineral Rights on their land under the top soil. There will be no distribution of land in the interior unless demarcation of land is completed and boundaries for new and existing villages agreed on. There will be prior consultation with the Indigenous People before mining and forestry leases are granted for areas around any Reservation. The Stipend for Captains will be increased to \$10,000 per month. A Council of Chiefs will be established. This Council will be the consultative body to the President and the Senior Minister of Indigenous Affairs. A separate Ministry for Indigenous Affairs will be created and this Ministry will be headed by a Senior Minister. The Captain of every Reservation will have the right to refuse entry to the Reservation to Civilians. Roads will be constructed and existing roads will be made to the level of all weather road. During the construction period, boat transportation will be established to ensure farming communities transport their goods to the market place.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

PROPERTY

Property is an important source of power and position. Indeed it is so important that the urge to acquire it is very great. The non-fulfillment of this urge has caused innumerable disputes, duels and wars. Its fair and reasonable fulfillment for all people is, therefore, urgent. The United Force is committed to the fair distribution of our land to all its citizens based on his ability to utilize it to the maximum.

Property begins with life itself - a person's most precious possession. People seek other possessions as a means of increasing their importance; improving their position; and of extending their personality. Everyone wants property. The citizens of this country should own as much property as possible. The state should own no more property than is necessary for it to function properly. If the state owns all the property it will have all the Power which derives from property. The people then will be powerless. If the state owns no more than is necessary, then the people will also have power. There will be no State Monopoly of Property. Widespread ownership of property will be achieved under TUF administration.

The state will have power only by consent of the People. Modern industry produces many items of property which contribute to "a full life". These are things like radios, television sets, washing machines, refrigerators, gas or electric stoves, modern home appliances, motor cars and other mechanical means of personal transportation. Things like these make life easier for anyone who owns them and allow more time for the pursuit of happiness. The United Force government will ensure that everyone can afford these things, owns a home and family life centers around the home.

Housing

Buying your own home is the first step most people take towards building up capital to hand down to their children and grandchildren. It gives people a stake in the society and something to conserve. It is the foundation stone of a capital-owning democracy. A home should be a source of pride and independence to the family living in it, regardless of whether it is rented or owned. The United Force will ensure that every family in the land has the opportunity to make it so with cooperation of small businessmen. Some people are still deterred by the costs and complications of house purchase. We must create new ways to make buying simpler, easier and more available

The citizens of this country should own as much property as possible. The state should own no more property than is necessary for it to function properly. If the state own all the property it will have all the Power which derives from property. The people then will be powerless. If the state owns no more than is necessary, then the people will also have power. There will be no State Monopoly of Property. Widespread ownership of property will be achieved under TUF administration. The state will have power only by consent of the People.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

Home Purchase Plan

It is the policy of The United Force, in keeping with its ideals of a Property Owning Democracy, that every worker should own his own home. Government will encourage the building of owner occupied homes through Home Purchase Cooperatives and by other incentives. Home Purchase Cooperatives will generally be sponsored by employers (including Government) for the benefit of their workers. HPC's may also be sponsored by trade unions and other organizations.

The sponsor of a HPC will be responsible for organizing a group for the purpose of building not less than 10 homes for members of the group. Each member will join the HPC for the purpose of obtaining a new home on easy purchase rental terms. The sponsor will provide finance and management for the scheme until its completion.

After the homes have been built and occupied by the members of the HPC, a loan company would normally take over from the sponsor the Home Purchase Rental Agreement in bulk. The sponsor will then deduct the monthly rental purchase from the employees earnings and pay it to the Loan Company. The sponsor will guarantee the first 15% of the loan to the Loan Company or make such other arrangements as might be mutually agreed.

The object of this plan is to stimulate home building by independent and competitive group initiative. This will create the maximum number of homes at the minimum cost. It is estimated when the scheme is in full swing 5,000 new homes per year will be built. This will create employment in the building and timber trade.

Government will assist as follows:-

- . Sponsor HPC's for its employees
- . Prepare and offer for sale at cost, land for building sites
- . Provide technical assistance to HPC's if requested
- . Provide supervisory and technical assistance for self-help schemes whether sponsored as HPC's or not.
- . Provide tax relief to sponsors of HPC's and Loan Companies financing such schemes by allowing-
 - a) the sponsor to claim tax relief to the extent of 15% of the total cost of the scheme provided the scheme is a non-profit one.
 - b) exempt from income tax for 10 years interest either by the sponsor or the loan company on the financing of the HPC's, provided the rates of interest are the normal minimum rates for long term mortgages.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The fault of the development program of many countries has been an attempt to industrialize at the expense of agriculture. This has often led to a wild rush to the cities which often result in rural poverty. We must learn from the mistake of other countries. In a developing country, agriculture has three major roles to play. They are:

1. Agriculture must supply the increase food necessary to meet population increases.
2. Agricultural expansion is required to create capital, to earn foreign exchange and to generate raw materials for new industries.
3. The development of agriculture provides an important direct stimulus to overall prosperity. No country is prosperous unless its farmers are prosperous.

Agriculture, therefore, is a very important sector in our development plan. We believe in establishing farmers as copartners with Government in the development of agriculture. In order to achieve this we propose to set up Regional Farmers' Councils in different regions of the country.

The councils would consist of a majority of impartially elected farmers, and would play an important role in the formulation and carrying out of the policies for the agricultural development of the region. We outline below a general description of our agricultural projects.

- * **Drainage & Irrigation:** Drainage and irrigation of existing lands and those lands opened up by our 'Magic Circle' road development. The natural water supply and drainage of these lands will be studied to make the water resource available to farmers in abundance.
- * **Access Roads:** While main roads have been provided for, access roads to new farms opened up by our 'Magic Circle' Development will be constructed.
- * **Regional Farmers' Council:** It is proposed to establish Farmers' Councils so that farmers themselves in the different regions will participate in the planning and execution of agricultural projects. The Regional Farmers' Councils will operate in each region as a co-partnership between farmers themselves and the Ministry of Agriculture. There will be full-time qualified personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture attached to each Regional Farmers' Council. Training and educational programs will be carried out through the RFC's in collaboration with the Technical Institutes and the University of Guyana. RFC's will use the means of films, radio, television, printed publications and agricultural fairs for creating interest and encouraging initiative among farmers. RFC's will act as Marketing Boards for farmers in the region. RFC's will distribute fertilizers, seeds and other inputs where needed for farmers in the region.
- * **Cattle - Dairy & Beef Development:** It is proposed that the cattle industry should be developed into one of the major industries in Guyana. We will provide for:
 - ⇒ *Improvement and enlargement of beef and dairy cattle experimental stations.*
 - ⇒ *Animal health clinics in cattle farming areas.*
 - ⇒ *Extension of animal health laboratories.*
 - ⇒ *Improvement of cattle breeding stations.*
- * **Grassland research.**
- * **Timber Development:** It is proposed to set up a Timber Development Council. The object of the Council will be to create a spirit of co-operation between Saw millers, loggers and Government. There will be representatives of each on the council. Extensive research to create new uses for timber produced and use for waste products will be undertaken. The TDC will process applications for credit for timber development. The TDC will publicize Guyana forest products in general, and in particular the potential for a paper pulp industry. The TDC will organize means for expanding export sales of forest products and of creating new forest product industries such as paper pulp. The TDC will work in close collaboration with the Environmental Agency to ensure that sustainable forestry is practised.
- * **Fisheries:** It is proposed to provide better refrigeration, ice and marketing facilities and research. The Fishermen's Co-operatives will process applications for loan to fishermen. Large block of river, streams and swamp Savannah's will be made available for fish farming.
- * **Research:** It is proposed to intensify research to produce better quality crop yield in rice, sugar, citrus and other crops.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

RICE

The rice sector is currently in a very unstable condition and very little is being done by the state to solve the problem. This sector is a very complex yet profitable one. The future is endowed with great promises for a very successful industry. The plight of the farmers and millers must be addressed as a matter of priority. Concrete solutions must be arrived at which must be supported by the State. The entire industry must be studied from the beginning and all steps to enhance production must be implemented.

The farmer must concentrate on the preparation of the land, sowing and tending of his crops, reaping of his paddy and transporting to the mills. The miller must concentrate on cleaning of the paddy, drying, milling and selling the cargo of rice. The banking institution must be very supportive to the entire process and must be willing and able to bridge the financing required for the industry. Facilities must be made available to the millers at very competitive rates for the industry to make a giant leap. Millers will have to send all export shipment through the banking system for collection. The United Force will address this problem in the following way:

1. A Rice Development Fund (RDF) will be set up with the initial capital of G\$3 billion
2. Access to the fund will be open to all farmers and millers
3. Farmers will guarantee payment for his paddy within two weeks of delivery to the mills.
4. Millers will be permitted to draw from this fund for Capital Works

In addition The United Force Government will do the following:

1. Ensure the remaining 340,000 acres of land at the MMA is developed and given to the farmers.
2. Continue to work on a variety that is blast resistant, less fertilizer use, less pesticide and high yield both for the farmer and better recovery for the miller.
3. Make available to every farming family a minimum of 50 acres of land for cultivation. Title of the land will be given to the farmer.
4. Encourage the cultivation of not less than 1 million acres of land under rice
5. Encourage backward and forward linkages in the rice sector. Secondary processing industry will be given a high priority
6. Technology units will be set up to create new products using rice and rice by-products. Teams will be sent to countries that have advanced in this field e.g. India, USA and Japan
7. A Committee comprising of Farmers, Millers, Private Sector, and Government will formulate a plan to protect farmers from crop losses.
8. There will be vigorous promotion of Export in this Sector. The team will include Millers/Private Sector/ Government.
9. Input costs will be reviewed so that the cost of production will be drastically reduced.
10. Experimental units will be fully equipped on a continuous basis.
11. There will be a proper land use policy. All areas earmarked for cultivation will be properly demarcated and what crops will be grown .
12. For big Industrialist, land will be allocated for infrastructure work according to Government plans. These lands will then be made available to farmers if necessary.
13. The Technical Institutes and the University of Guyana will run programs which will benefit the industry directly .



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Having provided for our people's basic needs for agricultural development, we must provide the foundation for general industrial development. The works outlined below along with those already mentioned are necessary to establish a country in which new industries will develop and thrive.

a) Scientific surveys - To provide for:

1. An intensive program for scientific surveys to complete and extend existing surveys in the interior, so as to locate and analyze in the shortest possible time the total mineral and soil wealth of the land.
2. Survey and accelerate plans for the hydroelectric power.
3. A program for training Guyanese surveyors.

b) Industry - To provide for:

1. The preparation of fully serviced industrial sites for sale at cost.
2. A technical advisory service to assist persons in developing industry, especially small local businessmen.
3. Advertising at home and abroad, the industrial potential of Guyana and the facilities available.
4. New equipment for Government Corporations.
5. Better facilities for tourists to visit the interior and to join in hunting and bio-diversity expeditions.
6. A Tourist Development Board to boost development of holiday areas for Guyanese and tourists.

c) Ports- To provide for:

1. A first-class modern sea port in Georgetown.
2. A New Amsterdam Port Authority will build, own and operate a modern port.
3. A first-class modern sea port in Essequibo.
4. Dredging of harbor approaches in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Essequibo, Moruka and Mabaruma river.
5. Modern cargo transit sheds and cargo handling for Port Georgetown, New Amsterdam,
7. Essequibo, Moruka and Mabaruma.
8. Improved ferry services.
9. Improved river services.
10. Modern international airport at Timehri and Ogle.
11. New airport terminals at the airports.
12. New interior landing fields and improving existing ones.

d) Public Buildings

1. It is proposed to construct new public buildings to provide efficient and centralized Government offices.
2. Many of the existing Government buildings spread out around the City could be sold and the proceeds set off against the cost of new centralised offices.

e) Local Government - To provide for:

1. Financial assistance for improvement works to be undertaken by all Municipal Councils and Local Authorities.
2. A road machine pool for Local Authorities.

f) Public Works - To provide for:

1. Sea and River defenses.
2. Pure water supply for every home and factory.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

POVERTY

The State of the health of the community is perhaps the most striking testimony to their poverty and adverse living conditions. The squatter settlements are on the rise all over Guyana and yet there have not been any serious solution on the nature of poverty. There is clearly a gender dimension to the issues of poverty, especially in some of the squatter settlements of Greater Georgetown. The squatting areas lack basic amenities such as electricity, roads, water and drainage. This has impacted adversely on the health of the community, particularly children.

In a country so rich with natural resources, the indicators associated with the cause of poverty are, a lack of income, single parent family, unemployment, lack of skills, access to contraception, ill health, low levels of literacy, violence and loneliness. Poverty in the squatter communities is certainly income poverty, as over 43% of the women had household incomes below G\$10,000. But it is also poverty due to the lack of access to health, contraception, skills, childcare, information, advocacy and functional literacy.

Women identified childcare as one of their pressing concerns, the lack of which impedes their economic independence. Almost three quarters of the women who work outside the home need child-care, as they have children who are going to school or who are younger. Most of these women leave their children with relatives and friends. However, they feel that the institutional day care was a better alternative for them, but was unaffordable. Single parenthood and high burden of child-care are the major issues that affect women.

Uppermost in the minds of women is the clear lack of 1) adequate housing and 2) community infrastructure. The communities have organized themselves into groups or councils to try and obtain titles to regularize their squatting land. These community organizations are plagued by tensions and confrontation. Sadly these groups have become politicized and wield considerable power. Hence very few non-governmental organizations have tried to empower or organize these communities, or advocate their concern. TUF sees the need to strengthen the institutional base of any community based development project and to strengthening capacity and building leadership in the community.

Women identified the problems of the youth as an insurmountable one. Adolescents tend to drop out of school and do not seem to have enough to do. The need for structured programs targeting the youth, in terms of vocational education, jobs, counselling, sex education and support groups are urgently required.

Under previous administrations the squatter communities have been largely neglected by the policy-makers. There is an absence of any clear policy, for the settlements have been allowed to grow in an unchecked manner. Secondly those who have been established are suffering from very poor standards of living.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Any forward thinking Government has placed heavy emphasis on inspiring enthusiasm, confidence, and creating positive outlets that would fire the imagination, creativity, and initiatives of our youth. We must ask ourselves, whether the Youth Programs implemented by the PNC and now the PPP/Civic have worked successfully.

The United Force believes that the quality of our youth will determine the strength and future of the nation. The United Force will move expeditiously to provide economic, educational, and social opportunities for the upliftment of our young people.

With youth unemployment peaking, it was imperative as a first meeting point to determine what are the barriers to the entry of youth in the work force. Some of the factors identified were poor attitudes, inadequate or inappropriate skills, lack of experience and a lack of job opportunities.

A strategy which The United Force will develop to alleviate this problem will be the Youth Skills Training Program. This program will be solely funded by the Government and thousands of young people will be taught employable skills. Training centers will be opened all over the country. People will be trained in food preparation, fashion design, pottery, wood carving, computer applications, and electrical installation. Other similar programs will be built upon the same premise.

Other skills that could be gained include shirt and pants construction, small and large appliance repair, screen printing, household furnishings, child care services, bread cakes and pastries, care for the elderly, radio servicing and repairs, textile design and printing and so on. The list is inexhaustive and will create a diverse range of employable skills for youths between the ages of 18 - 25 years.

Funding for youths and their small business applications and developments must become a reality to make any training program effective. Small loans at minimum interest rates should be provided by Government institutions or commercial banks. This will provide the initial capital needed to start any business venture and assist with the unemployment problem in the process.

Another arm of the youth training skill program will be established. This will work hand in hand with the private sector, the Trade Union movement, the Manufacturers Association, the Chamber of Commerce, Employers Consultative Association, the Co-operative Movement, and of course the Government. The intent here is to ensure that youths coming out of the Youth Skills Training Program and wishing to attract wage employment primarily will be allowed to acquire the necessary work experience in a partnership agreement.

These programs are designed to release the creative talents of our young people and to empower them to participate in the economic activities of the country. These programs are essentially building blocks for the development of the entrepreneurial spirit and the widest possible participation in business enterprise.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

A PROGRAMME FOR THE URBAN/RURAL DISTRICT

The creation of a program for the bottom 20-25% of the population in the urban and rural districts. A dual approach would be adopted: A Sociological and Economic Perspective.

Sociological Perspective:

- a) Identifying and defining the sub-culture of poverty.
- b) The further polarization of the society along the lines of class and ethnicity.

Economic Perspective

The creation of an economic program of self-help for the bottom 20 - 25% of the population, through joint venture partnership of the state, the private sector, non-governmental organization and the local community.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A GRASSROOTS BASED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME IN GUYANA.

For this strategy to be effective, there must be an institution offering educational opportunities to the youths, both in terms of technical and vocational training and academic training as well. Persons will be trained in food preparation, fashion design, pottery, wood carving, computer applications, electrical installation. Other skills that could be gained include shirt and pants construction, small and large appliance repair, screen printing, household furnishing, child care services, bread cakes and pastries, care for the elderly, radio servicing and repairs, textile design and printing. The list is inexhaustive and there are numerous skills to be gained.

The ages must range from 15 - 25, and must be open to children who have either dropped out of the formal school system and those who did not attain a school certificate. This would be similar to that of the institution of SERVOL and YTEPP in Trinidad and Tobago.

The challenge would be to design a grassroots employment program with the following objectives in mind:

- provide some relief for the unemployed;
- cover the entire country, with particular emphasis on Georgetown;
- give evidence that our government does indeed care for the small man;
- ensure in the program that the people will really work for the pay they receive;
- improve the work ethic in this type of mass employment program;
- ensure that there be a real sense of community participation.

TYPES OF JOBS THAT WILL BE OFFERED

The types of opportunities that will be offered will all relate to creating jobs that will compliment the development of the tourist industry. Some of the skills that are being targeted are as follows:

- Shirt and Pants Construction
- Dress Design and Construction
- Screen Printing
- Fabric Design
- Graphic Design
- Printers
- Hairdressing
- Beauty Therapy
- Cosmetology
- Child Care Services



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

- Bread, Cakes, Pastries
- Cookery
- Catering
- Cake Making and Decoration
- Local Beverage and Dessert Making
- Receptionist
- Typist
- Clerical Training
- Automatic Skills for the Office Hospitality Steward/Stewardess Tour Guides
- Waiters/ Waitresses
- Barmen
- Cooks
- Maid service Maintenance staff Floral Arrangements
- Photography
- Ceramics
- Leather Craft
- Mixed Craft

ALTERNATIVE HELP FOR THE LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED

The Government is concentrating its efforts particularly upon a series of programs specifically aimed at those who have been unemployed for some time, to prevent them becoming "outsiders" to the labor market.

RESTART COURSES

These are intended for those who have been unemployed for more than two years. These are similar to evening classes, that offer basic subjects to those children who have not passed their secondary school examinations. Those undertaking the courses may be obliged to show actively their willingness to search for a job, to avoid, a reduction in benefits. The Government believes that benefits are a product of a contrast between the State and individuals: it is only reasonable that, in exchange for benefits which are paid by taxpayers, all unemployed people should be prepared to look actively for work, and to take part in programs that will improve their chances of unemployment. Restart is mandatory for those who have not taken up other options.

JOBCLUBS

These workshops should offer guidance and assessment, on a one to one basis. They offer the longer term unemployed a two week part-time course in jobhunting skills. They also provide a professionally run centre at which newspapers, stamps, stationery, telephones and photocopiers are available free of charge. Jobclubs offer and provide "customized" help to particular groups, such as ex-offenders and people with literacy and language problems. They will also include services such as typing and resume writing, postage for job applications, interview practice, etc. A listing of all the companies in Guyana should also be present, so that the unemployed will have access to these.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

An employment agency should be created to alleviate the unemployment problems that face the unemployed population. The above skills that include: cake-making, pastries, floral arrangements, and garment construction. To encourage private sector participation to hire these young trainees, the government of Guyana should be willing to offer a tax incentive, that is, making all salaries to these trainees tax deductible, thus reducing the overall corporate bill.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

A BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER GUYANA

Guyana is like a sleeping giant and a great treasure chest with all the wealth locked inside. We must break it open. We must release the wealth for the people's use. We plan to do this. By roads thrust into new lands we plan to open up and release the wealth of our land. We plan to integrate our great land into one prosperous unit.

The basic purpose of our plan is to fulfill our ideals. To provide full employment. To enable all our people to earn enough to enjoy "a full life". We calculate that the effect of our plan will be to make possible both "full employment" and "a better standard of living". With increase national wealth and productivity, the minimum wage should be increased in line with Cost of Living and National Growth.

Our Development Program, like that of any progressive Government requires capital expenditure on various economic sectors. Economists usually distinguish between development in the "Public Sector" and the "Private Sector". The "Public Sector" means development works carried out by money supplied by Government. The "Private Sector" means development works carried out by money supplied by private investors. We have planned for development in both the public and the private sectors.

Another distinction is usually made between capital spent on works which provide a basis for further economic development and works which relate directly to social welfare. Development works are roads, drainage and irrigation, and other basic public works. Social welfare are schools, hospitals, community halls. The ability of any country to expand social welfare depends on the wealth which the nation generates. Thus the priority for capital expenditure in a sound development plan must be given to works which will create wealth and make expanded social welfare possible. The extensive capital expenditure on "social development" in our plan is possible because the effect of the capital expenditure on "economic development" will generate the wealth to keep up and increase social welfare.

The first priority in our plan is for works which create permanent employment and which are productive. This is for works which will increase the nation's wealth, and thereby raise the people's standard of living. That is why one of the main features of our plan is to open up Guyana with a network of new roads and to rebuild all existing roads. We call this our 'MAGIC CIRCLE' Road Development Plan.

For convenience in the presentation of our plan, we have divided expenditure into 4 sectors of development as follows:

- a) "Magic Circle" Road Development Plan.
- b) Agricultural Development.
- c) General Economic Development
- d) Social Development

'MAGIC CIRCLE' ROAD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This is our plan to open Guyana with a network of new roads: We plan also to stimulate agricultural and industrial development by perfecting all existing roads.

- The first 'Magic Circle' planned is a "Grand Circle" road, encircling the land within the following route: Georgetown, Timehri, Linden, Ituni, Kwakwani, Orealla, Crabwood Creek, New Amsterdam, Georgetown. The complete road circle would be about 370 miles.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

- The second 'Magic Circle' is a road circle branching off from the first circle as follows: Ituni, Ebini, Mara. This splits the 'Grand Circle' into two smaller circles.
- The third 'Magic Circle' is a road circle from Vreed-en-Hoop, Parika, Uresimaa, Rockstone, Linden, Wales and back to Vreed-en-Hoop.
- The fourth 'Magic Circle' is a road encircling the land within the following route: - Ituni, Kurupukari, Tumatumari, Bartica, Rockstone. This complete road circle would be about 500 miles.
- The fifth 'Magic Circle' is a road branching off from the fourth circle as follows: Kurupukari, Annai, Lethem, Orinduik, Potaro landing, Tumatumari. This complete road would be about 1,000 miles.
- The sixth 'Magic Circle' is a road encircling land within the following route: Supernaam, Towakaima, Matthews Ridge, Arakaka, Hosororo, Morawhana, Kwebana, Moruka, Charity, Supernaam. This complete road would be about 2,000 miles.

Within these 'Magic Circles' more than 20 million acres of land will become available for use. More land will be available for cultivation and pasture than the total coast lands now in use. All the new lands will be accessible by road from Georgetown and other towns. The towns of New Amsterdam, Linden and Anna Regina will be greatly expanded. This plan opens up magnificent vistas for development. The cattle and dairy industry would at last come into its own. Agriculture would become diversified with important development in bananas, citrus, tobacco and other crops. The interior will at last yield its riches for the benefit of the Guyanese people.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

a) HEALTH

Children's health needs care. Parents are expected to look after the health of their children. This now means that the government should look after the health of all its citizens. In a good State no one suffers from lack of good health care. Either everyone earns enough to meet the cost of good health care or the Government provides sufficient health care for everyone or there is a combination of the two. Health care provided by the Government includes well appointed and staffed hospitals in convenient locations to meet the needs of people living in reasonably accessible areas and mobile clinics to serve the people in remote areas.

The United Force Government will provide a health scheme for all citizens to include the following:-

- Free medical service to all
- Free medicine upon prescription
- Free hospitalization
- A committee will be set up to recommend to Government after consultation with the people, places most in need of hospitals and trained staff.
- Remodeling all existing hospitals to provide specialized units for maternity cases, chronic disease cases, out patients, casualties, geriatric care, cancer units, central laboratory, laundry, nurses hostel and nurses training school.
- Reconstruction of the mental health hospital at Canje.
- A national Medivac system will be put in place to serve the entire country under the operation of the Ministry of Health.
- River boat clinics and mobile clinics for remote areas.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

b) EDUCATION

Every child needs to have knowledge. It is expected that parents will teach and inform their children. The government has the responsibility to see that all its citizens are well educated and well informed. In the quest for a good State, the introduction to "a full life" is a full education. A full education must be provided equally for all. Full education is provided by fully appointed and staffed primary and secondary schools, agricultural training schools, technical schools and Universities of international standards. A good government keeps its people truthfully informed about national affairs without political prejudice.

Every citizen has the right to express himself publicly without censorship, provided he respects the reputation of others and observes reasonable moral standards.

The United Force Government will do the following:-

- Modernize the University of Guyana to conform with International Tertiary Education Standards..
- Subsidise post graduate training at foreign universities.
- All Medical and Technology students at the University of Guyana will be on Government Scholarship as a matter of priority.
- Rehabilitating and equipping all Technical and Vocational Schools.
- Construction of Technical Institutes in Essequibo and Linden.
- In view of the G\$7 billion spent over the last seven years by the last two administrations in constructing and rehabilitation of schools, the Government will set up a committee to evaluate the existing program and to recommend a plan of action.

LEISURE

All children, irrespective of their physical condition need to play and to have leisure. Parents must encourage them to play, teach them games and provide toys. It is the responsibility of the State to see that facilities for the use of leisure are provided for all its citizens. The United Force government will provide public parks, playing fields, sports arenas, swimming pools, theaters, libraries, museums and other places of recreation and culture, so that all can enjoy leisure and participate in the cultural life of the community.

FOREIGN POLICY

The United Force Government is conscious of the various International Conventions which bind nations of the world together. We will explore every avenue to bring the nations of the earth closer. With this in mind, we will pursue the following:

1. In advancing the idea of bringing the world closer, we will endeavor to bring to our people what is best for Guyana.
2. Caricom is not operating at the level we anticipate to bring our countries closer in facing the global economic change of the 21st century. This will be our focus and we will do whatever is necessary for this to take place.
3. We will pursue all avenues for more trade with South and Central America.
4. We will spread the ideals of Democracy..
5. We will give assistance to those who support us and will be a friend to those who respect us.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

ENVIRONMENT

The United Force Government is committed to changing the landscape of 20 of the 53 million acres of our Country. However, in our effort to make this change, protection for the environment will be paramount. We realize that the felling of one tree in our forest will change the ecosystem. There is, however, a proper way of managing our land resource to reduce the possibility of damaging our environment. We will work with International Agencies and seek their knowledge to reduce any effect on our wildlife, watershed, flora and fauna and the environment.

HANDICAP CITIZENS

The United Force recognizes the significant contribution these unfortunate citizens can make towards the development of our Country. The various skills being taught to these people will be strengthened by the generous tax concessions companies will get for investment into this vital sector. We will work with all interest group whose policies aimed at making the lives of these citizens better. Private schools for the handicap will be encourage. All the profit from these schools will be free of all taxes.

HOMELESS

The plan of The United Force is to provide a home for every family. We recognize that even in this plan there will be persons who will not want the safety of the home and family. In this regard, The United Force Government will encourage the establishment of Nursing Homes and other facilities to take care of the citizens. In addition, the Government will set up homes for the needy in every region of the Country. Laws will be enacted to give effect to clear our streets from the homeless.

INSANE

The increase in persons of unsound mind roaming our streets is of serious concern. The United Force Government will refurbish the Canje Hospital and its surroundings to ensure that the inhabitants are not allowed to leave the hospital until they are medically sound to do so. Laws will be enacted to clear our streets of these dangerous persons.

THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

The United Force has always held the view that a basic function of the State is to protect the security of the citizens under the rule of law. There can be no half-heartedness, no opting out, in the fight against crime and violence: all of us, not just the Government or the police, share a responsibility to make safer our streets and homes. The United Force will focus on preventing crime. We must help the poor, single parents and teenage mothers.

We do not underestimate the challenge. Crime has been rising steadily over the last few years. The origins of crime lie deep in societies in families where parents do not support or control their children, in schools where discipline is poor, and in the wider world where violence is glamorized and traditional values are under attack.

Government alone cannot tackle such deep-rooted problems easily or quickly. Government must give a lead by example at the top, by supporting, not attacking the police; by providing a tough legal framework for sentencing by building the prisons in which to place those who pose a threat to society and by keeping out of prison those who do not; and by encouraging local communities to prevent crime and to help the police detect it. All these we will do by intensifying our efforts and improving our technology and forensic capability to combat all crimes including white collar crime.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

The challenge before us remains great; and much has to be done. The great majority of those who commit serious crimes of violence are not brought to the book. The police need to be better equipped to fight crime. Those who commit serious crimes must now expect much tougher punishment.

At the same time we will have to extend protection for innocent people and for the victims of crime. We will place a high priority on the fight against crime, so that the citizens can feel safe on the streets and in their homes. Children need protection. Parents must protect their children from hurting themselves or being hurt by others. Parents must train their children to respect others.

A good government must protect its citizens from either hurting others or being hurt by others. All persons must respect the right of each other. The government must see that the rights of everyone are respected and protected without discrimination. It must be clear that those who seek to destroy the life of another or harm another are restrained by fear of lawful punishment. However, anyone charged with an offense is presumed innocent until proven guilty after a fair trial. Every trial must be conducted in public by an independent and impartial tribunal, before which the accused person has all guarantees necessary for his defense.

Law and order must be maintained with the minimum of force. There must be equal protection and justice for all citizens. Everyone has the right to choose for himself and his children the type of health care he wants, the type of education he wants and the way in which he wants to use his leisure. All citizens are entitled to privacy in his personal and family affairs.

The United Force government will build a very professional police force where the 'Rule of Law' will prevail. The force will be responsible for the protection of all citizens regardless of their race, religion or political affiliation and every station fully equipped to meet the demands for the area it serves. There will be greater opportunity for young qualified ranks to attain the highest levels in the police force.

- A proposed list at first hand
- 200 Vehicles for patrol by night and citizens call
- 100 Vehicles for traffic patrols
- 100 Motor cycles for traffic patrols
- Other Advance Communication Network for example Radar

A Report to investigate the cause of the crime upsurge and increasing criminal activity.

- + A Review of any study that has been done on Crime and Drugs.
- + A Review of the Central Statistical Office's Report on Crime and Drugs.
Re-assessing Institutions that administer Justice.
- + A Preventative and Restitutive approach is required for this detailed report, with a view of creating solutions for the short, medium and long term.
- + The re-establishment of family values, with the state and the family unit working together.
- + Review of the recommendations of the Crime Commission.

The drug situation is getting more serious. The Authorities seem helpless in trying to eradicate this menace from our society. The Police Force is not equipped to deal with the barons who have the advantage of international connection. There is need, however, to redraft our laws in order for our Police Force, with the limited facility, to deal with the real danger in our society.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

The United Force Government will pass laws which will make it mandatory for citizens in possession with small amount of marijuana not exceeding one ounce to be committed to Counselling and Community Work for a prescribed period. Possession of large amounts will be given fines which will reflect not less than 10 times the market value of the drugs. Trafficking in cocaine and other dangerous drugs will be dealt with in a similar manner as with Marijuana. However, with large quantities, the penalty will be a hefty fine and jail sentences.

The United Force Government will invest in Counselling for persons found guilty of any trafficking. We have established that WE CARE and will do all that is necessary to help our youths in this difficult period of their lives. We must ensure that the battle against drugs is won. We will examine the need for increasing the number of customs specialist drug investigators. We will strengthen the effectiveness of the police in the fight against drug abuse. Traffickers must face life imprisonment. They must also stand to lose all the wealth generated by their evil trade under the most far-reaching asset seizure provisions anywhere in the world. The battle against drugs can and must be won. The cocaine explosion must never happen. We will make the defeat of the drug trade a key priority.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The current harassment being shown to this sector continues to bring much suspicion between the Police Force and the Operators. If we allow this to continue, the situation will become explosive. In such a situation no one wins and the Country will stand to suffer. In this regard all effort will be made to diffuse this situation. The Police Force will be better equipped with motor cars and motor cycles in order for them to effectively enforce the law. All traffic offenses committed will be dealt with immediately and the charge issued on the scene of the offense being committed. The Operator will have the right to appeal his case in the Courts of Guyana if he is of the opinion that he was wrongly charged. However, all fines must be paid on or before the due date. Failing to honor this will result in suspension of driving licenses. For Public Transport, the concessions to be given are: Duty Free tires, No Purchase Tax on vehicles, No Income Tax on profit.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS

It is recognized that the moral value of our society has disappeared. The evidence of this serious state of affairs can be seen everywhere. We see our men folks urinating on the street, child molestation, rape, drunkenness, stealing and the list goes on. The United Force is very concerned about this state of affairs and recognizes that we must put the brakes on now or we lose a generation forever. In order to provide Counselling to all those affected, we will encourage the Religious Leaders in our Communities to take the first step in eradicating these unwanted traits. It is therefore, the policy of The United Force to pay Salary from the Public Treasury to the Religious Leaders in the Christian, Muslim and Hindu faiths. We will set up a Committee to complete this work within the first year of our administration.



VOTE THE UNITED FORCE

THIS IS
YOUR COPY
OF THE

UNITED FORCE
MANIFESTO

THIS IS
YOUR TIME
FOR
MEANINGFUL CHANGE.

—
VOTE THE
UNITED FORCE

THE



UNITED

FORCE

*Leadership into the
Twenty First Century*