



THE UNITED FORCE

2011 MANIFESTO

**AGENDA FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

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Dear Fellow Guyanese,

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of The United Force, I present to the nation our Manifesto in summary for these 2011 General and Regional Elections entitled “Agenda for Development” to realise our Guyanese dream.

After securing our independence on May 26, 1966, it is our duty and responsibility to ensure that this wonderful land, which is our children’s legacy, is managed effectively and efficiently to realise the dream of our people. We who live under the Guyana flag MUST shape her destiny through the Government we elect. Our nation requires astute leadership that reflects inner strength, compassion, dedication and transparency.

We will focus on the areas of:

- Address the issues of the poor, homeless and forgotten.
- Creating an investment friendly atmosphere to boost the economy and jobs.
- Cultivation of more Private–Public Sector Partnerships Projects.
- Adopting and implementing a Keep Guyana Safe Crime Policy.
- Developing the technological advancement of our nation.
- Improve on the infrastructure throughout Guyana
- Accelerate the plan to complete the road to Georgetown from Brazil
- Economic development program within the framework of a Green economy.
- Strengthening families, building communities and fostering Nation Building by stimulating and enhancing the spiritual and moral values of our people.

The United Force has a rich political history of outlining its philosophy and making clear its beliefs. Providing a platform for stability for our country’s national development has been the fundamental basis of our **Pro-Western policies**. The foundations of social harmony built on a platform for stability has been the source of inspiration during periods of national and political crisis.

The political philosophy of putting people first is the vision of The United Force as we set out our “*Agenda for Development*” for Guyana beyond 2020. A future based upon fulfilling the aspirations of individuals and their families – their hopes, their needs, their security and especially their dream. The Guyanese dream is that every person should have his or her own homestead, a good income and other amenities vital to a happy life.

The political philosophy of the United Force is to govern, not by extreme measures, but in the spirit of unity and total co-operation with the International Community.

Friends, today we ask you for your vote on Election Day – November 28, 2011. To ready itself for the task at hand, TUF has undergone fundamental changes. TUF is offering the people of Guyana a new vision with clearly defined policies and pragmatic programs. Ours is a team of competent and experienced leaders full of commitment and wherever necessary we are ready to employ qualified specialists as the needs arises. We are the Right Team to chart Guyana’s future.

Mr. Peter Persaud
TUF Presidential Candidate
Founder of The Amerindian
Action Movement of Guyana
(TAAMOG)

Ms. Marissa Nadir, LLB
TUF Prime Ministerial Candidate

INTRODUCTION

For the 2006 General and regional Elections The United Force said that its manifesto was a plan for the development of Guyana to 2020. We understand that for a country there need to be a long view of development and that annually there will be continuation of programmes to achieve these goals. The United force, thus re-presents, by and large, the manifesto of 2006 for these 2011 elections. While we have seen a few of our ideas being tinkered with by the government there must be more serious attention to the ideals herein contained. In this elections we again say that *jobs, citizen security and a better quality of life* must be our priorities.

Meeting the Challenges of Globalization

The challenges of Globalization require our nation to be founded on the creation of a strong diversified economy. The United Force understands the philosophy that our country's greatness is built on the nationalistic pride of our people. We must all be patriots of Guyana. A strong sense of patriotism is required if we are to globally brand Made in Guyana.

The United Force recognises the pivotal role that Private-Public Sector Partnership must play if we are to have accelerated economic development. We must commit our national resources to the modernizing and the strengthening of our industries and services. We must be globally competitive and ensure that our accelerated economic expansion will create sustainable career jobs. The United Force acknowledges that prudent financial management will control the inflation rate that will foster the accelerated development of private sector.

The United Force will strongly advocate for:

- 1) A review of the Tax System, TUF believes that the creation of a simplified tax system will promote private sector development.
- 2) The removal of Bureaucratic Red Tape, this would allow for a faster turnaround for the start up of companies.
- 3) Review the Incentive Packages for Investors

Guyana economic positioning to meet the challenges of Globalization must address the issues of the poor, the homeless and the forgotten. Only by addressing these social concerns can our national patriotism make Guyana Great. The United Force will engender a society built on People's Enterprise Capitalism with a human face. We will:

- 1) Building Communities by Investing in people. We will develop Community Renewal Programs for the most depressed communities. Poverty alleviation through educational opportunities would assist in successfully implementing our Crime Reduction Plan. .
- 2) Develop a Social Security Safety Net that would leave no one behind.

- 3) Improve the well-being of our people through improved health care and proper housing.
- 4) Implement an internationally acceptable benchmark that secures a minimum standard of living for all participants in our Social Security Safety Net.
- 5) Develop a Community Employment Program for depressed neighbourhoods.

Our Vision for Guyana

The United Force recognizes the values of honesty, decency and community. The demands of globalization require us to belong to a national community that feels distinctively ours. We recognise that we must support our families and local communities. This is backbone of our social stability and economic strength.

We in the United Force want a country whose economy encourages entrepreneurs, creates wealth and distributes it fairly. Our economy must be innovative, export oriented, efficient and free of bureaucratic delays. We want a country where the cost of utilities and taxes are globally competitive. We want a knowledge driven country that is driven by E-Generation Technologies.

The basic requirement for a good Government is to fulfil the fundamental needs of the people. The United Force widely believed that there are five (5) basic needs that the human beings require for fulfilment. These needs are:

- *The right to believe in the Supreme Being*
- *The right to be love and happiness*
- *The right to shelter, food and clothing*
- *The right to education and good healthcare*
- *The right to freedom of constitutional and civil liberties.*

The United Force believes that a responsible government will seek to create a State in which every adult irrespective of their race, religion or creed is empowered through self-reliance and financially independent.

The United Force concept of a good government is re-affirm in the United Force Charter. The Charter reads:

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

“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**

The United Force suggests that we need to 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 rates of taxation.
2. To increase the rate of the development of our natural resources.

A Better Deal for Workers

The United Force recognises that we need to develop a holistic approach to crime. Crime must also be addressed from the position of strengthening our family unit in our communities. The United Force recognizes the necessity to improve the remuneration package for our workers. As such we are advocating a Better Deal for Workers Policy. Our taxation system is a disincentive to production and the maximizing of value from labour. The only way for this country to assist the poorer people to deal with the increasing cost of living is to leave more of the people’s money in their pocket. The United Force considers the reform of the PAYE Tax System as a critical factor if we are to put more money in the pocket of our workers.

The United Force is committed to:

1. An income tax threshold of GY\$75,000 per month
2. The introduction of a 25% Top Tax Rate (P.A.Y.E.) on taxable income
3. The abolition of Property Tax
4. The abolition of the Revenue Stamp System for the receipts and other business transactions

The United Force holds the opinion that more disposable income will mean more spending power, more economic activity, more wages and salaries, more profits and correspondingly more money in the pockets of our citizens. We have to restructure the tax regime in order to provide some form of equity in the system.

Private Sector Development

The United Force is seeking to secure a strong and sustainable economy for every single citizen. One of the major strategies we will utilise towards this goal is the full development of the Private Sector Development.

Private sector development will draw upon private investment, which is a proven engine for economic growth and poverty reduction. In order to foster private sector development, The United Force will seek to focus on creating a very, very attractive investment climate.

Private sector development has many benefits for Guyana's economy. It will expand economic development and support a sustainable source of revenue – tax and otherwise – that will fund strategic social programmes. Private Sector Development will become a nucleus of employment and therein accelerate our process of socioeconomic development.

Private Sector development will improve the lives of our people, whether directly or indirectly. It will expand the variety of goods and services available and reduces their cost, to the benefit of consumers.

The United Force has advocated for private sector development as the catalyst for accelerated economic development. We recognize the urgent need for government to privatize strategic sectors of our economy.

The United Force will adopt measures drawn up in consultation with the representative organizations of employers and workers, to create and strengthen an enterprise culture. This program will favor initiatives, enterprise creation, productivity, environmental consciousness, quality, good labour and industrial relations.

We will actively be engaged in:

- Pursuing the development of entrepreneurial attitudes, through the system and programs of education, entrepreneurship and training linked to job needs and the attainment of economic growth and development. The United Force will place particular emphasis on the importance of good labour relations and the multiple vocational and managerial skills needed by small and medium-sized enterprises;
- The United Force will seek, through appropriate means, to encourage a more positive attitude towards risk taking and business failure by recognizing their value as a learning experience while at the same time recognizing their impact on both entrepreneurs and workers. We will encourage a process of lifelong learning for all categories of workers and entrepreneurs;
- Designing and implementing, with full involvement of organizations of employers and workers concerned, awareness campaigns to promote:
 - respect for the rule of law and workers' rights, better working conditions, higher productivity and improved quality of goods and services;
 - entrepreneurial role models and award schemes, taking due account of the specific needs of women, and of disadvantaged and marginalized groups.
- Creation of linkages between national and international bodies and institutions that are involved in the development of small and medium-

sized enterprises, including organizations of employers and workers, in order to facilitate:

- exchange of staff, experience and ideas;
- establishment of international partnerships and alliances of small and medium-sized enterprises, sub-contracting arrangements and other commercial linkages;

Public Sector Reform

A key factor in the Government's ability to continue the reform programme, whilst maintain a stable macro-economic environment would be improving the efficiency of the public sector.

In Guyana we are witnessing the transformation of the public sector. However, much more needs to be accomplished if the Public Sector is to be a more efficient provider of citizen services. The United Force will invest in developing the human capital of the public sector.

The United Force envisions a Public Sector free from all types of partisanship influences. A TUF Administration will pursue positive changes in service delivery in the interest of greater efficiency, effectiveness and productivity.

Our immediate challenge would be creating an e-government in the short term. This will enable our public sector organizations to focus on improving the quality, scope, and cost of delivering citizen services—all in an environment of increasing transparency and accountability.

The overarching principle is to operate an efficient flexible, responsive, productive, highly motivated and development oriented public service. The following strategies will help to achieve this.

- The institutionalization of the Performance Management and Development System (PDMS).
- Developing Partnership with Private Sector and NGOs in ensuring the delivery of public services
- Allowing Public Service managers greater autonomy and independence in the management of their departments
- Restructuring and re-organizing government departments
- Establishing as a matter of urgency a national Human Resource Management Information System
- Improving the physical structure and the working environment of government departments
- Developing an employee support programme for all public servants

- Making greater use of the skills and abilities of all public servants in their areas of competence
- A major adjustment of public sector wages.

POVERTY

The United Force is committed to the progressive elimination of Poverty as a key Millennium Development Goal established by the United Nations. We recognize that this is a multi-faceted challenge which will require a wide range of strategies on several fronts. There are some basic mechanisms which can be employed, however, and we outline some of the key ones here, which will be targeted to the indigent, the unemployed, and the poor.

- Reinvigorate Private Sector Growth so that more employment can be created.
- Jobs-related Education Programmes to provide the poor with the skills to obtain employment.
- Creating a Knowledge-Based Economy based on an Internationally-Competitive Services Sector, to shift the poor into higher quality jobs.
- Ensure at least one employed person in every household to ensure a basic stream of income into all households, especially the poor.
- Develop a Basic Needs Programme to enable the poor to address their fundamental livelihood requirements.
- Improve the Social Safety Net through a Poverty Subsidy Programme to supplement the extent to which some poor persons could provide for themselves.
- Increase the Financial and Resource Packages for the Small and Micro Enterprise Sector.
- The Basic Needs Programme will focus on the following:
 - Target the unemployed, the poor and indigent and ensure that at least one person in every household is gainfully employed
 - Small projects implementation using small contractors and labour from the respective communities aimed at improving community amenities and living conditions.
 - Utilize existing national institutions to provide support for micro and small business development at the community level.
 - School Assistance Program to ensure that all school-age students are able to make use of the opportunities for schooling.

CRIME REDUCTION PLAN

The Constitution of The United Force specifies that the party's policy is to maintain a judicial and police system that will guarantee each citizen protection against injustice, violence, fraud and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

The United Force (TUF) is genuinely concerned about the economic and social welfare of every Guyanese, irrespective of race, creed, religion, gender or political affiliation. TUF proposes the implementation of the following short term and long term strategies to address the issue of Crime and Security in our nation. TUF hears your pleas for urgent solutions and we pledge to stand firm with you to combat this scourge.

TUF realizes that the input of every citizen and a conscientious commitment by the relevant authorities will be necessary in order to achieve any level of success during the implementation of these short term initiatives. We therefore ask for the full and unwavering support of everyone who is concerned about the future of our country.

Our objective is to achieve the highest level of security in the home and work environment. Every child should be safe, whether inside or outside of the home or classroom. Every business person should feel secure in his or her place of business and at all other times. These minimum goals can only be achieved through detailed examination of our current laws, the structure and function of our Criminal Justice System. The security and the judicial systems must be more accountable and responsive to the needs of our citizens. There must be transparency and confidence in our judicial system. Every citizen must believe that justice is colour and status blind. We must respect the decisions and those who render them. As such, TUF will endeavour to gain the confidence and support of all Guyanese.

In the short-term, TUF is therefore fully prepared to sit down with all stakeholders to achieve a meeting of the minds as to the most effective manner of addressing the crime issue in our country. The suggestions, recommendations, and input of all will be developed into a comprehensive proposal that will seek to achieve changes in our criminal justice system, thereby providing the machinery for the reduction of various crimes and anti-social behaviour in our society.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSALS

1.1 Recruitment, Training and Career Path

TUF will seek to amend the age of eligibility so that all graduating members from the police training school must be at least twenty-one years of age, before being permitted to patrol on their own. TUF will require that all graduating constables be accompanied by a senior constable during the first three months of patrol.

1.2 Review of Recruitment Standards

Upon review of the qualifications standards for admission, TUF will make it mandatory that all candidates must have attained at least a secondary school education and have achieved no less than three passes in the CXC examination or

its equivalent.

TUF will create a Recruitment Unit within the Force that will visit schools and other organizations to identify outstanding young men and women who would be willing to serve in the Force. Such targeted individuals, prior to attaining the appropriate age, will be invited to attend quarterly orientation and drill sessions, and be given a stipend for their participation in the exercise. The exercise will emphasize the building of character, discipline, and high moral standards, attributes that are critical to the survival of our Police Force.

1.3 *Pre-Appointment/Vetting of Recruits*

Although we hold the belief that one's history is no indicator of one's future conduct, we believe that a thorough investigation of a recruit's background is the only available tool by which he or she may be assessed to determine his or her moral and ethical standards.

1.4 *Appointment of Police Commissioner*

Elevation to the position of commissioner has been treated similarly to that of a monarchy, whereby in many cases the heir apparent is identified and known to the public years prior to his ascension to the position. The person identified is normally someone who has served as a Deputy Commissioner and acted in the capacity. This may not be the most qualified candidate, yet invariably he receives the nod for such a position.

TUF urges that the selection process be competitive in nature and that qualified male and female members of the Force holding the rank of assistant commissioner and above be given equal consideration for the position of commissioner. For too long, female members of the Force have been overlooked or by-passed during promotion to ranks above assistant commissioner. As such we must re-examine the eligibility, selection, and appointment processes by encouraging those qualified members to apply and compete for positions in the upper echelon of the Force.

TUF will seek to amend the basis and criteria used in the appointment of a Commissioner of Police and shall devise mechanisms that will foster public participation in the selection process.

1.5 *Standards and Ethics*

TUF emphasizes that a significant portion of a candidate's training should be devoted to matters of intelligence gathering, proactive policing, integrity, anti-corruption measures, and police-community relations. TUF will develop a program that will guarantee the safety and security of each member of the Force who files a complaint against fellow members for acts of misconduct.

Although we strongly believe that most members of the Force are law-abiding and highly professional in the execution of their duties, we are convinced that the

conduct of some members continue to reflect negatively on the Force in general. Police personnel must be encouraged to report knowledge of wrongdoings by fellow officers. They must understand that they have a moral, ethical, and legal obligation to do so. However, we also realize that this exercise can only be achieved when the appropriate conditions and mechanisms are created within the Force to protect sources of information from any and all forms of victimization.

1.6 *Promotions and Career Paths*

The United Force supports a process by which all members of the GPF are promoted based on merit and nothing else. Thus, members should be aware of all avenues of advancement and be afforded equal opportunity to pursue the avenues of choice. Members must have no doubt that the path to professional advancement is through highly dedicated and professional performance of their duties.

1.7 *Name Change*

TUF has heard calls for the Guyana Police Force's name to be changed to Guyana Police Service. The United Force supports the call for a change of name. However, such change must not be an act of euphemism, but rather be accompanied by substantive and meaningful changes in the manner in which the police operate. A mere name change without drastic change in the modus operandi of the police will achieve nothing but further frustrate our citizens.

1.8 *Remuneration and incentives to encourage pursuit of higher education*

It has been generally accepted that members of the Guyana Police Force are woefully underpaid. Crime is our number one priority and our financial resources will be re-prioritised to give our law enforcement officers a well rewarded remuneration package e.g.

- Improved salaries;
- Private insurance
- A free house lot for each officer after serving three (3) years
- And a duty free vehicle after serving five (5) years, renewable every three years. . .

2. CRIME FIGHTING PROPOSALS

This category is intended to address serious and violent crimes of all nature such as homicide, domestic violence, rape, armed robberies and kidnapping and to present our plans of providing specialised units to deal with types of crimes.

Create Specialized Investigative Units

TUF believes that the most effective deterrent to crime is the fear of immediate detection, apprehension and prosecution by the authorities. As such, TUF will recommend the creation of specialized units within the Guyana Police Force. Such specialization will serve to enhance expertise and skills of members of each unit, which will lend towards a more productive and effective organization.

The United Force encourages and promotes the approach that the police must conduct some basic level of preliminary investigation, before taking someone into custody. The detention of any citizen and the deprivation their civil liberty must be justified by reasonable cause. We urge investigation before detention. In order to promote this approach, TUF will provide all members with the basic level of investigative skills necessary in the execution of their duty.

(a) NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The United Force will create a separate investigation agency that will have as its main objective the function of crime solving.

The NBI will be staffed with competent and professional staff recruited from within and outside of Guyana. This agency will complement the work of the law enforcement agencies.

(b) Special Emergency and Tactical Response Unit

The United Force is of the strongest conviction that the disciplined services must create and maintain a highly trained unit capable of responding and repelling any domestic threats or armed attacks. Members of the unit, which will be no less than three hundred (300) strong, will be recruited from the Guyana Defence Force and Police Force. TUF will retain the services of highly competent and reputable units from various jurisdictions to provide the necessary training to this specialized unit. This will be a very professional unit that will see members being held to the highest stands of international best standards.

(d) Emergency Communications Unit

TUF has heard of an ever increasing number of complaints by members of the public where their pleas for help have gone unheeded, because no one answered their calls to 911. The United Force recommends the establishing of an Emergency Communications Unit that will have multiple telephone lines dedicated to only receiving calls and will be manned by designated personnel on a twenty-four hour basis. This system will also be designed to record all incoming calls and transmissions relayed indicating the time of each activity. In most cases transmissions will be made via radios. TUF believes that the time has come where our emergency system must be responsive to the calls for help from our citizens and when it fails to do so. Those responsible must be held accountable and be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of service.

(e) Intelligence Unit

The United Force believes that a competent intelligence unit within the Force must comprise of personnel that are capable of surreptitiously infiltrating various gangs and other illegal organizations for the purpose of providing timely information on the activities of the groups. The resources will be committed in areas of recruitment and training of suitable personnel in the art of infiltration and additional covert activities.

(f) *Anti-Police Corruption Unit*

No law enforcement body can achieve any appreciable level of success, unless it enjoys the unqualified support and confidence of the community it serves. The general sentiments shared by members of the public are that many members of the Force are corrupt. However, members of the public are reluctant to file complaints with the appropriate authorities for fear of victimization. To address this issue, it is recommended that an appropriate rank at the Sub-Division level be assigned the position of Integrity/ Community Officer and that this officer be provided with an exclusive and dedicated telephone number with capabilities to record complaints and information during his/her absence from office. This officer will be required to make routine visits to the communities within his/her jurisdiction and to interact with members of said communities, thus making him or herself accessible to anyone wishing to file a complaint. This approach can also serve as part of building a constructive community/police relationship. Integrity/ Community Officer should report without undue delay, all allegations of corruption and other forms of misconduct directly to the Head of the Internal Affairs Unit. This Unit will be responsible for conducting investigations of all complaints. Integrity/Community Officer must submit monthly reports of all complaints received to the Division Commander noting action taken, if any.

In order to identify potentially corrupt members, it is crucial that the Force initiates proactive and covert investigations. Measures such as sting operations should be encouraged and conducted on targeted officers by the Internal Affairs Unit. This measure will not only serve to identify corrupt officers but will also serve as a deterrent to police soliciting and/or accepting bribes.

A further step towards gaining the support of the community is transparency and impartiality in instances where the police are prosecuted. In order to remove all doubts and suspicions from the process, the practice of police serving as prosecutor in matters against fellow police would be discontinued. A Special Prosecutor should be appointed to handle all cases against police. Such steps will certainly help to remove any cloud of suspicion in the manner in which these cases are disposed of.

(g) *Homicide Unit*

In 2005, our murder rate can be expressed as being of such levels that Guyana is considered one to the Region's crime Capitals. Although the statistical data pertaining to the conviction rate of those charged with murder may not be available, it appears to be extremely low. If this is so, then what are the reasons for such a poor conviction record? Was the wrong person arrested and charged? This can only be due to poor police investigation. Was it poor prosecutorial skills due to lack of experience, or was the prosecutor outwitted by the defence? Or was it poor investigative skills that resulted in evidence developed being unable to withstand the scrutiny and impeachment of competent attorneys? Was it poor case preparation or lack of experiencing in testifying?

Whatever, the reason may be, the United Force intends to thoroughly examine these issues and make all necessary provisions for adequate training in these fundamental areas. TUF will, in consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutor (DPP), seek to create and fund a highly skilled investigative unit that will be assigned to the Prosecutor's office. Such personnel may be recruited from the list of retired and/or active members of the Force or from private investigative organizations. The objective is to create an investigative body that will be under the direct supervision of the DPP, and be capable of assessing the investigative steps taken by the police and being able to pursue matters overlooked by the police.

Homicide investigations are unique and require methodical and comprehensive analysis of all evidence by highly experienced investigators. To date, there are more than forty seven unsolved murders committed in 2006. We must equip our investigators with the tools to make them more competent and efficient in the solution of homicide cases.

(h) Narcotics Unit

No one can doubt that there is a proliferation of illegal drugs in our communities and that to a great extent, organized groups are engaging in the exportation of this illegal substance with impunity. TUF believes that the detection and investigative mechanisms currently in place to address this problem are duplicitous and unproductive. We have seen no appreciable levels of reduction in illegal drugs leaving Guyana. These illegal drugs and the funds generated will have severe impact on the integrity and stability of our political and judicial systems if unchecked. The lack of accountability for funds generated makes them untraceable. The very threat of a subterranean economy being created by these illicit funds can have tremendous influence on governments and their decisions.

(i) Fire Arms and Explosives Unit

Although the 2005 statistics have shown some level of reduction in serious crimes when compared to the previous year, crimes associated with the use of firearms appear to be on the increase. Therefore, specific emphasis must be placed on preventing the entry of illegal firearms into our country and at the same time developing strategies to remove those that are currently in the hands of members of our society. Since illegal firearms are involved in most homicides, our objective must be to successfully and expeditiously solve those homicides and at the same time work assiduously to remove the illegal firearms.

The pervasiveness of illegal firearms in our society is of such magnitude that we must create a specialized unit to trace, identify, and seize weapons that are illegally held. Simultaneously, a program offering amnesty for a specific period coupled with an offer to purchase all illegal guns at a fair market value from the public will be instituted. Persons surrendering weapons will not be required to identify themselves to the authorities. Illegal weapons must be presented within a

prescribed period. TUF will seek legislation that will allow for confiscated funds to be used to finance this and other programs.

TUF supports a carrot and stick approach to this problem and as such will simultaneously seek to significantly increase the penalty for anyone caught with illegal weapons upon expiration of the amnesty period. We cannot deceive ourselves into believing that the removal of illegal weapons from our streets will be the solution to the murder rate. We must remember that guns don't kill, people do; therefore police must identify and pursue those who are pre-disposed to violence through "aggressive stop and frisk" of suspects and cordon and search exercises. Law enforcement must remain in a proactive mode in order to achieve an appreciable level of success in reducing the amount of crimes involving the use of illegal firearms.

(j) Armed Robbery & Street Crime Unit

Any successful attempt to reduce the level of armed robberies must be addressed by providing appropriate awareness training to those that are vulnerable, coupled with an aggressive and well equipped squad, capable of neutralizing those who are bent on using violent means to commit crimes. This unit must have the deterrent effect through its record of success in detecting and apprehending criminals.

We believe that one the most successful approaches to this emerging phenomena is the creation of a unit dedicated to the gathering of intelligence on individuals who have a history of engaging in such illegal acts. TUF will urge that this unit also engage in covert operations such as serving as decoys using various MO's, such as the stakeout of banks and other financial institutions. In addition to the use of intelligence information to target specific suspects, police must be trained in the art of profiling subjects to ascertain whether a suspect is predisposed to engaging in criminal activities. TUF will encourage the creation of sustainable bicycle and motor cycle units that will conduct undercover patrols.

TUF through the Police Force will encourage and offer financial incentives to businesses that adhere to the following list of recommendations that may be relevant to their operation.

- That their employees be fully vetted prior to appointment.
- That they develop a comprehensive strategy in the event of armed robbery and that such strategy is rehearsed regularly and appropriate adjustments be made as deemed necessary.
- That banks and other financial entities install cameras that are strategically positioned to record all activities within its confines and use vaults that are embedded with bolts on to a metal plate installed into the floor of the business' entity.
- That all businesses that conduct high levels of cash transaction be equipped with a silent alarm that is directly connected to the monitoring station of a security company

(k) Sex Crimes Unit (Adults and Minors)

By the time they are apprehended by authorities, most perpetrators of sex crimes would have been repeat offenders. Statistics have also revealed that most victims of sex crimes knew the perpetrator prior to the commission of the crime. Because we have found that an overwhelming amount of victims are under the legal age of consent and may have fallen victim through manipulation or intimidation by adults, TUF believes that these vulnerable members of our society must be protected. They must be educated about the dangers of engaging in sexual activities at such tender ages, especially with adults. They must be educated as to the various methods of enticement and manipulation that may be directed towards them and how to respond to such perverted gestures.

Adequate mechanism with trained personnel must be in place for minors to report sex crimes, whereupon counselling and other support mechanisms should be in place to address the trauma. Being very conscious of the traumatic effect and permanent emotional scars inflicted by such heinous crimes, TUF will seek to find the appropriate means to support and encourage victims of sex crimes to testify in a court of law. TUF will offer the necessary counselling and support mechanisms through funding to reduce the emotional impact to victims.

The public must be protected by being notified in a timely manner of the presence of sex offenders in their communities. Law enforcement has the obligation to alert and notify communities, whenever these predators move into their neighbourhood. As such, TUF proposes that upon conviction in a court of law, based on the offender's prior record that he be required to report his address to the nearest police station upon release from incarceration. The police will make every effort to acquaint the community to the fact that a convicted sex offender is residing within their community. This would allow for all precautionary measures to be taken to protect the community. TUF will also recommend that the convict be required to attend and participate in mandatory counselling for a specific period.

(l) Anti Terrorism and Kidnapping Unit

Criminals continue to intimidate our society with acts of terrorism and kidnapping. It must be understood that these types of crime in many cases are not spontaneous, but rather premeditated and calculated. Again a highly competent and efficient intelligence network will be in place to profile and conduct all forms of surveillance on targeted individuals.

(m) Organized Crime Unit

Although some evidence exists that the tentacles of organized crime are emerging in some segments of our society, there is no clear proof that organized crime as internationally defined does exist in Guyana at this time. We must not wait for it to confront us, in order to take appropriate measures to curtail the emergence of such vicious groups. The United Force believes that organized crime is inseparably associated with illegal drugs, money laundering and other criminal

activities that have regional and international implications. Therefore, we advocate that any comprehensive solution should include regional and international participation. Although TUF has yet to see any full fledged manifestation of an organized crime family, it is obvious from recent developments that organized crime is about to establish a foot hold in our society. It is a form of domestic terrorism.

Organized Crime members have a known reputation of where they will infiltrate and take advantage of countries that lack the relevant laws, procedures, and investigative skills to pursue them. Investigation of organized crime members and their activities, require investigative skills and experience. Undercover and surreptitious forms of investigations are paramount to any degree of success when investigating these groups.

Organized Crime members have a history of being involved in crimes such as:

- Engaging in contract killings;
- Money laundering;
- Major Armed Robberies;
- Kidnapping/Ransom;
- Turf battles for drug sale;
- Turf battle for prostitution.

World Cup Cricket is the world's third largest sporting event, lasting 51 days. Practice of the oldest profession will be rampant. In most cases, prostitution during the period of World Cup Cricket will be managed and controlled by an organized structure of criminal elements in our society.

Additionally, we must pay attention to currency changers. These can serve as outlets for money launderers. It will be necessary for all member states to formulate and agree on regulations to monitor currency changers. Such regulations should be standardized regionally. The time has come and gone when law enforcement could have solved crimes solely by traditional investigative means. Drug dealers and Money launders do not stand in the corner and transact their business. The illegal activities are conducted domestically, regionally and internationally. As such, the telephone is a crucial tool in the equipment used. TUF therefore urges Guyana and the legislative bodies of each Caricom member states to approve the appropriate legislation authorizing Electronic Eaves Dropping / Wiretapping as an available investigative resource.

(n) Money Laundering and Counterfeit Unit

A recent report published by the US State Department described Guyana as having sixty percent of its support from a subterranean economy (the by-product from the proceeds of illegal drug sale and other dubious activities). TUF believes that these illicit funds generated from money laundering and counterfeiting of illegal monies will be funnelled through legitimate businesses and later used for both legal and illegal purposes. These funds will enter the financial mainstream of Guyana to support activities that will be counter productive to the growth and

development of our country.

TUF advocates that before any casino operations commences the following occurs:

- An autonomous commission is created that would be responsible for the issuance of licenses, monitoring, and the imposition of sanctions against licensee for violations;
- Appropriate training is provided to those assigned to investigate and monitor the casinos;

(o) Juvenile Unit

Although the juveniles of our society have been responsible for some of the most heinous crimes committed recently, society has an obligation to provide a safe and productive environment for each juvenile who is a ward of the criminal justice system. Such an environment should be constructive and not destructive and most of all must be conducive and supportive of the objectives of counselling, rehabilitation, and successful re-entry into society. TUF will put all necessary frame works in place and enact the appropriate legislations requiring that all juveniles in custody be required to attend classes, whether in a custodial environment or otherwise. TUF will recommend that strict segregation of juvenile inmates be maintained from adults, from the time of arrest up to and including any period of incarceration. Juveniles who have been sentenced to any period of incarceration that exceeds their eighteen birthday will upon reaching their eighteenth birthday be immediately transferred to an adult institution. If the period of incarceration remaining after their eighteenth birthday is less than twelve months, it shall be up to the discretion of the appropriate authorities as to whether such transfer will occur. Consideration may be given to the inmate's behavioural history and any potential adverse impact such transfer may have on the inmate's rehabilitation.

TUF will mandate that scheduled visits to schools and other institutions be made by social workers and police personnel to discuss drugs, teenage pregnancy, and the effects of other counter productive behaviours with the juveniles in our schools. Counsellors will be required to work closely with teachers and other school personnel in order to identify and intervene with those juveniles that exhibit signs of pre-disposition to deviant behaviour.

(p) Domestic Violence Unit

TUF considers Domestic Violence as a most reprehensible anti-social and criminal behaviour in our society. This form of violence against the women of our society should not be taken lightly. Many of the murders associated with domestic violence are precipitated by pervasive and consistent history of physical and psychological abuse. As an organization that believes in a social and legal coherent society, TUF will seek to amend the relevant legislation to increase the severity of the penalty that may be imposed on those found guilty of this cowardly act.

TUF argues that early intervention and the offer of financial and other assistance by the relevant authorities can serve as motivating factors for victims to pursue their complaints. Victims must be encouraged to pursue their complaints and should not directly or indirectly be discouraged from so doing. In those cases where victims are reluctant to pursue their complaints, after necessary appropriate protection and assistance have been offered, TUF will seek to have legislation that will allow the state to prosecute the perpetrator by compelling victims to testify in a court of law to the facts of the complaint she initially filed with the police.

TUF would recommend that all complaints of domestic violence filed with the police be treated with due urgency by the police and that immediate and prudent steps be taken to minimize risk of further injury to the victim.

Making the victim aware of available residential and counselling facilities will be considered a prudent course of action. Records of all complaints of domestic violence will be maintained by the police station receiving the complaint in a manner that is easily retrievable. Copies of all complaints must also be forwarded to a central unit within the Police Force and to the Ministry of Social Services.

3.0 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Our program is intended to prevent the exploitation of our people who are routinely uprooted from the sanctity of their communities with false promises of employment by unscrupulous characters who then use them as sex slaves at mining sites and other locations. TUF understands that employment and other avenues towards financial success are extremely limited and as such the temptation is great among our young people to move out of their communities to seek greener pastures. Unscrupulous members of society use this level of vulnerability to take advantage of the females. Promises of high paying wages are used to lure these young women from their homes.

TUF intends to conduct community awareness programs warning members of the risks involved, such as:

- Being used as a prostitute;
- Being used as sex slaves;
- Working more than 20 hours a day and receiving little or compensation;
- Being the victim of sexual and physical abuse; and
- Becoming a victim of HIV/Aids.

TUF will seek to have this information disseminated through churches and other community based programs.

3.1 Labour Recruiters

TUF will seek legislation which will require that all persons recruiting personnel for any reason in our communities must first be certified by and registered with

the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. Certification may be granted only after thorough back ground investigations of the labour recruiter and business entity have been conducted and approved.

TUF will require each person recruiting within in our community to post a bond, the amount to be stipulated, with the Ministry of Labour which will remain available for the purpose of compensating victims who have made valid claims of fraud and other illegal actions against the labour recruiter.

Labour recruiters will be required to recruit only through a designated community representative such as village or community leader or captain or other such figure, who will be responsible for establishing the authenticity of the local recruiter.

TUF will require police personnel receiving complaints of trafficking and/or sex crimes be accorded similar level of seriousness as that accorded complaints from other groups. TUF will seek legislation to increase the severity of the penalties for violation of any of the laws relating to trafficking in persons.

4.0 POOLING OF HUMAN, TECHNICAL, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES (REGIONALLY)

TUF supports the bold initiative of a regional collaborative effort to combat specific categories of crime in the region. As such, we believe that by pooling our financial, human, and technical resources greater levels of success against crime can be achieved in each jurisdiction. TUF will support the creation of a CARICOM Crime Lab available to all law enforcement entities in the region.

TUF will support the formation of a CARICOM Force, trained and familiar with the region that can be deployed to any member state to augment, support, and assist with crimes and other emergencies.

TUF will support the creation of a CARICOM Criminal Intelligence Unit that will gather and serve as the reservoir of information on criminal activities of citizens within the region. We believe that with the advent of free movement of persons in the region, such intelligence network will be extremely beneficial to the law enforcement agency of each member state.

TUF will support the creation of an Impenetrable and Compromise free CARICOM Witness Protection Program to be located in a member state.

6.0 LEGAL REFORM

6.1 Early Negotiated Disposal/Resolution of Criminal Cases

The net benefits of such negotiated plea are:

1. A reduction of cases assigned to the trial calendar.
2. Significant savings of human and financial resources.

3. A reduction of the remand population.
4. To allow for the prison authorities to transfer prisoners that are no longer on remand to other facilities, thus addressing the overcrowding conditions at the Georgetown prison.
5. Ultimately getting cases designated for trial to be brought before the court in a shorter time period.

Such negotiated pleas may occur at any stage following the committal order and upon request of the accused and/or his legal representative.

6.2 *Legislation to Amend Judicial Sentences*

Any form of sentence, custodial or otherwise when imposed by the court must be done with the intention of having a constructive impact on the convict. As such, sentences should serve to punish, and rehabilitate the convict and not serve as a revolving door form of justice that encourages recidivism.

6.3 *Legislative Approval of a Good Samaritan Law*

TUF over the years has received complaints and also registered the concerns of several citizens who have expressed reluctance to go to the aid or render assistance to victims during the commission of a crime, especially in cases where the use of deadly force against the perpetrator may be necessary.

TUF will lead in the introduction and approval of legislation to be known as "The Good Samaritan Legislation". In order to promote and encourage the public's participation and assistance to victims of crime, the legislation will seek to make persons who have used reasonable and justifiable force, whether deadly or otherwise, immune from prosecution or civil action.

6.4 *Legislation to provide protection against illegal and unreasonable search and seizure*

6.5 *Proposed Legislation Governing the Installation of Eavesdropping Devices*

6.6 *Drug Rehabilitation*

7.0 *Seizures and confiscation of funds and assets obtained by illicit means*

TUF intends to send a clear and unambiguous message to those who are engaged in criminal activities that crime does not pay. TUF will advocate and present legislation, that if after a hearing is held by a competent court or other legally authorized body, it is determined that the assets of any person were obtained through illegal means, then such court or any legally authorized body may order the seizure and confiscation of said assets. Disposal of the assets will occur in accordance with guidelines established by the legislation.

8.0 DISCLOSURE TO THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION

As a political organization, TUF will work assiduously to promote and maintain an administration free of corruption and other unethical conduct. We understand that in order to have a law abiding society, government must create an environment and act in a manner that is consistent and conducive to the standards expected from members of the public. TUF will fight to promote the highest level of integrity among public officials.

9.0 PRISON SYSTEM AND IMPRISONMENT

9.1 *Work Release Program for Non-Violent Criminals*

TUF believes that inmates incarcerated for non-violent crimes should be screened and evaluated. Where appropriate some of these inmates should be allowed to leave the prison under minimum supervision and be permitted to engage in productive employment between the hours of 7 am and 4 pm. Since many of these non-violent inmates do have parental and other responsibilities, any income derived from their employment may with their consents be forwarded to their families. This course of action eases the burden of daily overcrowding of the prison population and also assists families in the maintenance of their homes during the absence of a bread-winner. TUF is prepared to recommend that tax and other forms of incentives be offered to those companies that are willing to engage in a state sponsored program of employing non-violent inmates.

9.2 *Pre-Trial Detention*

TUF advocates that whenever an accused on remand is convicted and receives a custodial sentence, any period served in custody during the pre-trial period shall be deducted from the custodial sentence imposed.

9.3 *Crime Victim Fund*

The United Force strongly supports the argument that victims of crime should be compensated or at least be given some level of financial and other forms of assistance from the government. As such, TUF will create a national fund with limited subsidy from the government with the major portion of its financial resources deriving from the imposition of nominal percent taxation on alcohol and tobacco to be known as *sin tax*. Additional financial resources will be derived from the unclaimed lotto funds and from liquidation of confiscated assets.

10. RESTRUCTURING OF COMMUNITY POLICING GROUPS

Community policing is an important component in our crime fighting strategy. Its members reside in the community. They have an inherent interest in the safety and security of their community and will not be merely diligent in serving as the eyes and ears of the police, but also will play an active role in the apprehension of criminals. Members are familiar with the terrain of their community and readily

capable of identifying strangers. We believe that these skills are invaluable and will serve to enhance the efficiency and productivity of the police.

TUF intends to create the appropriate apparatus to address any and all concerns or misperception by the police as to the function of community policing groups and those concerns voiced by the members of various community policing groups.

Where necessary, the appropriate legislative action will be taken to achieve our objective of having vibrant, productive, and dedicated members in all of the policing groups. TUF believes that the support of the community policing group is crucial to the success of policing. As such, we will work with members of the community policing groups to encourage their participation and support, through the offer of incentives and other forms of financial benefits. The United Force will establish recruitment standards for membership to community policing groups.

TUF will through the command structure require at least one member of the

We support a strong and aggressive approach to law enforcement and have offered our unqualified support to the relevant authorities in the lawful execution of their duties. However, TUF also vehemently argues that the execution of such duties and the preservation and respect of citizen's rights can be achieved in a harmonious manner. We believe that the respect of citizen's rights can result in greater support to law enforcement from members of the communities that they serve. As such, TUF will take every possible step to promote such a concept without impeding the function of the police

Education for a Knowledge Based Economy

It is an accepted fact that one of Guyana's untapped resources to-date is its human resource potential. The United Force believes that we must invest in our Human Capital if we are to successfully transform our economy to meet the changing needs of globalization.

The United Force is committed to expanding the supply of highly skilled manpower to support the development of a knowledge based economy. Our manpower development will be structured on an educational path that will lead to increased productivity. The United Force will:

1. Assess the manpower requirements for the successful implementation of sustained economic development. We will consider the establishment of a Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. Improve the quality of education and training delivery systems to ensure that manpower supply is responsive to technological changes and market demand.

3. Increase the accessibility to quality education and training to enhance income generation capabilities for all.
4. Restructure the education system in order to enable students to acquire a higher level of innovative knowledge and entrepreneurial skills.
5. Develop the education system to provide for seamless transition through all stages from early childhood to tertiary-level for all.
6. Develop an education curriculum that will focus on generating creative and independent thinkers as well as incorporate new aspects of knowledge and technology transfer.
7. Increase the supply of Science and Information Technology trained persons in the workforce. The capacity of Science and Information Technology education is a prerequisite for the development of the Knowledge Based Economy.
8. Train appropriate manpower that would lead to the development and promotion of Guyana as an international centre for Pharmaceutical Research and Development.
9. Ensure the provision of suitable accommodations at all times to meet the demands of delivering quality education at all levels and in all aspects.
10. Give top priority to improving the capabilities and conditions for the teaching service so as to ensure that quality teaching becomes the norm.
11. Develop Intensive Remedial Evening and Summer Programs that would allow participants a second opportunity to complete their basic educational program.
12. Promote lifelong learning opportunities through training to equip workers with new skills that enhance productivity.
13. Reinforce in the Education Curriculum a positive value system such as good work ethics, diligence, integrity, tolerance, gratitude, and respect for authority, punctuality and pursuit of excellence.

The United Force Government will do the following:-

- Modernize the University of Guyana to conform with International Tertiary Education Standard.
- 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

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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 development of our young people.

The United Force has identified a number of 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. We believe that we must urgently strengthen the skills of our young people. Our young people must be taught employable skills. People will be trained in programs such as food preparation, fashion design, pottery, wood carving, computer applications, and electrical installation. Other similar programmes will be built upon the same premise.

Another arm of the youth training skill programme will be established. This will work hand in hand with the private sector, the Trade Union Movement, the Manufacturers Associations, 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 Programme and wishing to attract wage employment primarily will be allowed to acquire the necessary work experience in a partnership agreement.

The United Force will advocate for the implementation Youth Development Principles, Policies and Actions. Some of our recommendations will include:

- Reforming the Education System and maximizing the protective effects of schools
- Upgrading of the public health care system
- Institutionalizing national level mentoring systems for “at risk” youths
- Reforming and strengthening legal, judicial and policing systems
- Using the media and social marketing
- Making families and fathers a top public policy issue.
- Strengthening community and neighborhood supports to adolescents and families

These programmes are designed to release the creative talents of our young people and to empower them to participate in the economic activities of the country. The United Force Youth programmes are essentially building blocks for the development of the entrepreneurial spirit and the widest possible participation in the society.

The future development of Guyana will be dependent upon our investment in young people. A recent World Bank Report entitled “Caribbean Youth Development,” identifies this risk at three levels.

- The individual
- The micro-environment – comprising family, social networks, peers and role models, community and neighborhood

- The macro-environment – including mass media, the economy, public institutions, cultural and historical background, and social norms in gender.

It is at these levels of risks that responses must be targeted, but it is first necessary to understand these risks.

Young people are not born as risks, but their micro- and macro-environment define them to a large extent, and create the conditions that lead to their risky behavior, which is often a reaction to the circumstances within which they exist. It means that it is those circumstances that have to be altered, and this is what the United Force will target.

Youth are not the problem, but a product of their micro and macro environments. In most instances youths react to the situation in which they find themselves. **Special emphasis must be placed on Family, Schools, Poverty and Gender.**

WOMEN

The United Force is building a society where Guyanese women and men have equal access to opportunities as partners in shaping the social, cultural, economic and political development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We will provide conditions to facilitate Gender integration in policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development of all women and the furthering of Gender Equality and Equity. Our areas of focus will be:

- Restructuring and upgrading of the Gender Equity mechanism via discussions with relevant groups based on regional & international commitments
- Capacity building within the Ministries, Statutory bodies, local Government and across the sector to perform integration tasks
- Working towards the removal of obstacles, legislative and cultural, which hinder Gender Equality and Equity
- Facilitating the retention of young mothers in the classroom, while deploying “Big Brother” programme for boys as a means of providing surrogate fathering for them
- Conducting Gender analysis and planning training with public, private and Non-Governmental Organization sectors, with more emphasis on public sectors, so as to equip women and men from different sectors, to participate effectively in the integration process
- Ensure the further involvement of women in power sharing and decision making at national level

AMERINDIANS

Overview of the Amerindians

The Amerindians, have made many a contribution to the development of Guyana. Throughout our colonial history and sadly even today, the Amerindians have not gotten the support that is required. 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.

Education Programmes for the Development of the Amerindians Human Resource Capacity

The United Force will see to it that individuals desirous of being teachers would receive 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. TUF recognizes the great need for more 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 programme 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 programme in the Amerindian communities. Youth education programmes 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.

Health Initiatives

The implementation of a practical health programme specifically designed for aids awareness and teenage pregnancies. A mobile dental unit must be put in commission

to reduce the high level of dental decay in the schools and villages of the Regions. There exist the urgent need for a massive deworming programme of the population especially the children in the village of 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 Lethem and Aishalton hospitals. The services of a resident doctor at Aishalton hospital would be a necessity to be met.

The Development and Implementation of a Tourism Plan for the Amerindians would stimulate the development of an entrepreneurial spirit and a small manufacturers sector to develop and to financially benefit from eco-tourism and cultural tourism.

Other Amerindian Development

The United Force will, as a matter of policy, ensure that every Amerindian community 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 COMMITMENTS

While the matter of settling land issues and the management of villages are very important there are several other important challenges for indigenous communities. These include:-

1. At least, double the stipends for Toshaos/Captains.
2. Each Toshaos/Captain would be entitled to a duty free 4X4 vehicle. TUF recognizes that these persons have a fulltime commitment when elected.
3. Each Village would have a satellite uplink internet facility, for education and communication.
4. Restore the Inland Transportation service. Transportation systems would be an investment in the communities to foster greater and affordable market access.
5. Agricultural development – The Indigenous communities live off the land and a TUF government will commit to making the resources and skills available to make more efficient agricultural production and that of processed foods.
6. Financial Assistance and Marketing Expertise in the communities is what is required to develop the art, craft and souvenir industry for the tourism sectors.
7. A greater investment in the education of the indigenous people will also be an important part of our commitment to indigenous communities. This includes an

- increased allocation of teaching and student supplies. Greater emphasis will be placed on increasing the number of trained teachers and enhancing the training of our existing teachers.
8. Health care and services will be modernized. We will establish a Flying Air Ambulance Service.
 9. Create more Cultural and Sport opportunities by improving the necessary infrastructure.
 10. Improved and maintain the roads, bridges and clean our waterways.
 11. A reliable and dependable power supply system for Lethem and its environs would be established by power linkup with the Guri Dam in Bon Finn, Brazil.

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 fulfil 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".

Our Development Programme, like that of any progressive Government requires capital expenditure on various economic sectors. Economist 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 work carried out by money supplied by private investors. We have planned for development in both the public and 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.

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) Agriculture Development, c) General Economic Development and d) Social Development.**

‘Magic Circle’ Road Development Plan (our plan since 1964).

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, Kwakwanin, Orealla, Crabwood Creek, New Amsterdam, and Georgetown. The complete road circle would be about 370 miles.
- 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, Uresima, Rockstone, Linden, Wales and back to Vreed-en-Hoop.
- The fourth ‘Magic Circle’ is a road encircling the land within the following route: Ituni, Kurupkari, Tumatumari, Bartica, Rockstone. The complete road circle would be about 500 miles.
- The fifth ‘Magic Circle’ is a road branching off from the fourth circle as follows: Kurupkari, 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: Supenaam, Towakaima, Matthews Ridge, Arakaka, Hosororo, Marawhana, Kwebana, Moruka, Charity, Supenaam. This complete road would be 2,000 miles.

Within these ‘Magic Circle’ more than 20 million acres of land will become available for use. More land will be available for cultivation and pastures 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 diary 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.

AGRICULTURE

RICE

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 solution 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.

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 be guaranteed 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 the field e.g. Brazil, India, USA and Thailand.
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.

GENERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Scientific surveys – To provide for:

- An intensive programme 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.
- Survey and accelerate plans for the hydroelectric power.
- A programme for training Guyanese surveyors.

Industry – To provide for:

- The Preparation of fully serviced industrial sites.
- A technical advisory service to assist persons in developing industry, especially small local businesspeople.
- Advertising at home and abroad, the industrial potential of Guyana and the facilities available.
- New equipment for Government Corporations.
- Better facilities for tourists to visit the interior

Ports – To provide for:

- A first-class modern sea port in Georgetown.
- A New Amsterdam Port Authority will build, own and operate a modern port.
- A first-class modern sea port in Essequibo.
- Dredging of harbour approaches in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Essequibo.
- Improve ferry services.
- Improve river services
- Upgrade and expand to modern international standards airports at Timehri, Lethem and Ogle.
- New airport terminals at the airports.
- New interior landing fields and improving existing ones.

Public Buildings

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

Local Government – To provide for:

- Financial assistance for improvement works to be undertaken by all Municipal Councils and Local Authorities.

- A road machine pool for Local Authorities.

Public Works – To provide for:

- Sea and River defences.

A PROGRAMME FOR THE URBAN/RURAL DISTRICT

A Georgetown Renewal Plan

As proud citizens of Guyana we deserve a Capital that captures our glorious historical past and is first world in design and contemporary in its outlook. Our Georgetown Renewal Program will modernize our Garden City.

The Georgetown Renewal Program will be a Private-Public Partnership arrangement that will complement the work of the City Council. Our goal is to make Georgetown a safe, well-manicured and beautiful city.

Of immediate priority will be:

1. Grading of parapets. – Persons or companies responsible for leaving builders waste or building materials on the parapets will be fined.
2. Cleaning of drains and alleyways will be properly cleaned. A Maintenance Program will be implemented. These cleaning works will be outsourced.
3. A Road Maintenance Repairs for all Main Roads
4. Develop and Implement a Traffic Management Program for Georgetown such as establishing order and law at bus parks
5. Improve the City Constabulary to ensure that it becomes an efficient and effective policing and crime fighting agency.
6. Change the relevant laws to ensure that we have an Executive Mayor.
7. Hold persons responsible for the cleaning of their parapets and drains in front of their yards. Develop a Georgetown Clean-Up Campaign.
8. Establish a Georgetown Heritage Trail. Tax incentives to persons and companies who will keep and maintain their historic buildings on the Heritage Trail. We will encourage the construction of historical architecture that will transform the skyline of Georgetown.
9. Review the rates and taxes system based on area criterion rather than a value system. This will encourage the development of the real estate market in Georgetown.
10. Establish a new management protocol for the municipal burial ground.

The creation of a programme 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) Deal with the possible negative effects of further polarization of the society along the lines of class and ethnicity.

Economic Perspective

The creation of an economic programme 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.

A Grass-root Work Fare Programs

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, and electrical installation. Other skills that could be gained include shirt and pants production, 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 challenge would be to design a grassroot employment programme with the following objectives in mind:

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

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, theatres, libraries, museums and other places of recreation and culture, so that all can enjoy leisure and participate in the cultural life of the community.

Science and Information Communication Technology

As a developing country with untapped resources, Guyana has to ensure that every investment made in developing Science and Information Communication Technology (S&ICT) builds human capital and generates acceptable returns on the international markets. The allocation of our scarce resources should therefore lead the transformation of our country's development into a knowledge-driven economy.

The United Force is committed to transforming Guyana into one of the leading Knowledge Economies (K-Economy) in South America. We envision a more integrated, diversified and dynamic economy shaped by science and information technologies, in order to exploit global market opportunities and the Internet. We must educate our workforce to utilize generational technologies to organise all our workplaces.

In this regard, TUF's Science and Information Communication Technology Policy provides a framework to attract investment, enhance productivity and sustain growth. We will strengthen strategic alliances among the Government agencies, private sector industries, external universities and internationally recognized research institutions. Our Policy addresses nine strategic thrusts:

1. In collaboration with international institutions we will strengthen national research and technological capacity and capability;
2. Promoting commercialisation of research outputs;
3. Facilitate e-commerce development;
4. Developing human resource capacity and capability;
5. Promoting a culture for science, innovation and techno-entrepreneurship;
6. Strengthening institutional framework and management for S&ICT and monitoring of S&ICT policy implementation;
7. Ensuring widespread diffusion and application of technology, leading to enhance market-driven R&D to adapt and improve technologies; and
8. Building competence for specialisation in key emerging technologies
9. Initiate and establish a working relationship with international partners to develop research and development in the medical and pharmaceutical industries.

International Relations

The United Force reaffirms its commitment to invest in our international role, commensurate with our condition as a small developing state in a globalised environment. In this regard, we will place primary emphasis on diplomatic efforts to create and exploit new opportunities in trade and business relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, while maintaining and strengthening, wherever possible, traditionally beneficial relationships. This new diplomacy aims at empowering our people thereby enabling them to build the society they desire; safe, prosperous and proud of our heritage and role in the world. The United Force is confident that it has devised a methodology which will enable our country to benefit from increased interaction in the international community.

The conduct of our Foreign Affairs has far reaching implications in terms of its relevance to vital sectors of our economy. As such, maintaining an appropriate stance with regard to our involvement in International Relations can only serve our nation well in the long term. The major facets of our economy which are directly related to our dealings with the global community are as follows:

- Energy
- Agriculture
- National Security
- Trade
- Economic Co-operation
- Training and Education
- Culture and Tourism

- Technology Transfer

The central facet of our external relations will be to deepen the regional integration process with particular reference to the CARICOM, South and North Americas, and our friends of long historic standings.

This will provide the springboard from which we could insert ourselves into other hemispheric and global integration, especially with respect to economic and trade relations. We will pursue a broad-based political cooperation and linkages policy, geared towards increasing the economic and social benefits to be derived there-from.

Our approach will be flexible, yet purposeful, with the protection and advancement of the interests of the people of this country always being paramount.

In the implementation of its policy of strengthening and transforming our International Relations, the United Force will:

- Place economic and trade relations at the top of our diplomatic priorities and reorient its missions accordingly
- Revitalize Caribbean linkages to maximize the benefits of regional cooperation through membership and participation in CARICOM, including the C.S.M.E. and the C.C.J., O.A.S., F.T.A.A., and the A.C.S., MERCUSOR, as well as international linkages with organizations like the W.T.O., U.N., and I.L.O.
- Apply an integrated approach to Foreign Affairs with the participation of relevant Ministries and interest groups in order to anticipate and respond to current and future international challenges facing our nation. Improve the effectiveness and agility of our diplomatic presence abroad for building stronger international economic relationships
- Emphasize links between domestic and international dimensions of security, development, economic growth and protection of the environment.

DIASPORA MINISTRY

We will establish a Ministry of the Diaspora to mobilise the human resource capital and investment capital that is a fundamental pre-requisite for the development of Guyana. This Ministry will be responsible to facilitate contact with the population of our people, who live overseas. TUF sees them as our El Dorado and will treat them as such.

- The privatization of state corporations such as Guyana Power and Light, Guyoil, Guyana National Shipping Company, Guysuco and NCN. The United Force believes that this process has the potential to raise investment capital from its citizens who live at home and in the diaspora.
- The United Force has the distinction of being one of the leading pioneers that utilised indigenous capital for national development. We only have to recall the example of Peter D' Aguiar's success story of Banks DIH. This is indeed a prime example of how a People's Capitalism Program can serve as a main trust for an

wealth creation. This model of economic development will generate wealth that would benefit all Guyanese.

- The Ministry of the Diaspora will be responsible for the harnessing of the human resource capital and investment capital of our Diaspora.

OUR FUTURE

These vision and plans that are presented in these pages are like our first Manifesto - **HIGHWAYS TO HAPPINESS**, then people laughed and snickered at TUF, today with hindsight our older people say that these plans had they had a chance would have seen Guyana as a first world country. Guyanese let us not again turn away from the best manifesto in 2011