

UNITED REPUBLICAN PARTY



2015

MANIFESTO



A Vision for a Modern & Safe Guyana

The Time has come to create a "Modern & Safe Guyana". A Guyana that has in place the socio, economic and political pillars that will allow every citizen to maximize his or her true potential. A Modern Guyana that will ensure poverty is eradicated and every man, woman, and child can enjoy "A Safe Guyana"

**VOTE
URP**



X

**ONWARD,
UPWARD,
WE Will GO**

**GOD IS THE
PRIMARY
SOURCE OF ALL
TRUE KNOWL-
EDGE
AND IS ALL
THAT IS KNOWN
BY IT'S MEANS**



HEAD OFFICE

48 South New Road, Vreed-en-Hoop, West Coast, Demerara

Office: 254-0078 / 254-1799 Cell: 651-3825 or 662-4555 Email: vbandhu@aol.com

Website: www.urp.org FB: United Republican Party/Guyana Twitter: @guyanaurp

Internet Radio: www.urp.fastcast4u.com



Vishnu Bandhu

Presidential Candidate



Brandon Jones

Prime Ministerial Candidate



The Pillar in which our Manifesto Stands



LOVE, HONESTY, TRUTHFULNESS

ACTIONS WITH
SYMPATHY
AND EMPATHY

POLITICS
WITH
ETHICS

SCIENCE
WITH
SPIRITUALITY

Religion
With
Tolerance

To reinforce our nationalism and to be in unison with what we should be striving for as a nation and as a country. This manifesto has drawn upon the principles enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution which pilots our destiny.

"WE THE GUYANESE PEOPLE, Proud heirs of the indomitable will of our forebears, in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation, pro-

claim this Constitution in order to:

Safeguard and build on the rich heritage, won through tireless struggle, bequeathed us by our forebears;

Affirm our sovereignty, our independence and our indissolubility; Forge a system of governance that promotes concerted effort and broad-based participation in national decision-making in order to develop

a viable economy and a harmonious community based on democratic values, social justice, fundamental human rights, and the rule of law;"

The aforementioned quote taken from the Preamble of Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is the platform on which the core Pillars of the United Republican Party Rest. Our four Core Pillars are:

The URP Vision for Democracy in Guyana

By any measure, democracy can be described as a governing system in which the central power is vested with the voting population. In such a system/government and the officials that make such a government are legally and morally obligated to attend to the needs of its citizens. By extension, in a democratic system, supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by the people or by their elected representatives under a free and fair electoral system. Since our independence in May 1966, Guyanese have not really had a chance to experience a prolonged period of stable democratic government. The PNC, when in power, has abolished the basic elements of democracy in its quest

to build the Burnhamite dictatorship. The PPP came into office amid a great deal of national and international support in 1992. The expectation was that with the democratic opening that occurred after the 1992 elections, PPP leaders would reconstruct the fragile Guyanese political system to create institutions that would ensure that a democratic political order would be established. However, the opportunity to do so has been woefully squandered by the ruling PPP, which today mimics in many ways the actions of the dictatorial Burnhamite PNC, now calling itself APNU. The ruling party, the PPP-C continues to govern by the same undemocratic means. Much of this leadership style, which

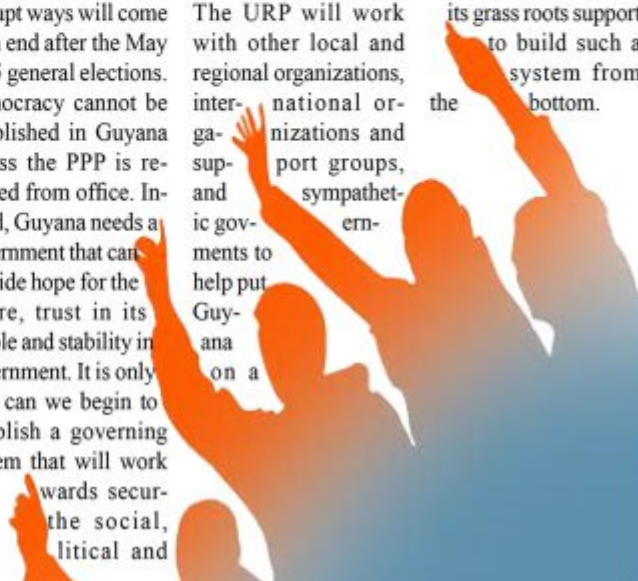
is clearly transparent under the leadership of President Donald Ramotar is guided by a socialist desire to centralize political control. In reality, the policies of the PPP have served to benefit a small group of loyal PPP supporters, while the majority of the Guyanese people still live in poverty. The failure of the PPP under President Donald Ramotar to build a sustainable democracy in Guyana is compounded by a number of factors, all of which have contributed to the erosion of a democratic tradition in this young nation. Included among these factors are preferential treatment for loyal party supporters, widening gap between rich and poor, a failed education system, out migration of skilled

people, increased drug trafficking and money laundering, widespread corruption, and a very vindictive government that considers all non-supporters as enemies of the ruling party. Today, the PPP remains a minority government which refuses to recognize the fact that its corrupt ways will come to an end after the May 2015 general elections. Democracy cannot be established in Guyana unless the PPP is removed from office. Instead, Guyana needs a government that can provide hope for the future, trust in its people and stability in government. It is only then can we begin to establish a governing system that will work towards securing the social, political and

economic interests of ALL Guyanese.

The United Republican Party (URP) will work with any political party in Guyana after the general election to support, build and establish democratic institutions that will serve the interests of all of Guyana's citizens. The URP will work with other local and regional organizations, inter-national organizations and support groups, and sympathetic governments to help put Guyana on a

democratic path, a path where a working democracy will create conditions in our society that will enable all Guyanese to help transform our society into one that recognizes the great potential of its citizens. More importantly, the URP will continue to work with its grass roots support to build such a system from the bottom.





Message from the Presidential Candidate of the United Republican Party (URP)

Fellow Guyanese, Brothers and Sisters, I am proud to be the Presidential Candidate for the United Republican Party (URP); I believe Guyana at this juncture in its political life cycle must put the necessary elements in place to move our beloved country out of five decades of Social, Economic, and Political strife that has impeded

our country's development.

Against this backdrop myself and members of the executive of the United Republican Party have crafted a theme which we believe will charter a course of prosperity and renewed vigor and vitality among all Guyanese, regardless of Ethnicity, Class, Social Strata, Sexual orientation, Gender

and Natural ambition.

Our Vision is for Guyana to be transformed into a Modern and Safe Country. Myself and colleagues have gone the distance to conceptualize this New Vision in an impacting context that will cause a metamorphosis in ideological thinking, perceptions and application to profile who we are as a people.

Under the umbrella of a Modern and Safe Guyana, Guyanese will once again begin to change who we are as a nation that is disillusioned, to who we should be as a country with vision. As I lead this team of enthusiastic, young, and smart Guyanese, I am convinced that the United Republican Party has all the ac-

cruelements to the mold this nation into the modern vision we all seek.

Into a place where we all can once again begin to live and not merely exist.

I urge you to come out on May 11, 2015 and exercise your franchise in a manner that will impact our future as individuals, set the



grounds for our future generation and solidify our beloved nation once again as one People, One Nation and One Destiny.

Vishnu Bandhu
Presidential
Candidate

Message from the Prime Ministerial Candidate of the United Republican Party (URP)

It is indeed an honor and privilege to be nominated by the United Republican Party (URP) as the Prime Ministerial Candidate for the Upcoming General & Regional Elections scheduled for May 11, 2015.

As your Prime Ministerial Candidate I realize that

my parliamentary responsibility in terms of leading parliament is pivotal to the effective functioning of one of the major arm of government. As deeply as I honor this responsibility I also look forward to serving every one's interest in a fair and democratic manner.

As one of the Youngest Prime Ministerial Candidates nominated by any political party for this election, I am heartened by the fact that youths can now be assured that they have a voice in the highest decision making forum of Guyana. I pledge to champion the cause of

youths and to ensure that legislations and laws that direct impact youth and youth development are tabled parallel with other pressing economic, social and administrative bills.

I want to initiate adequate involvement and participation of our youth in the social, eco-

nomical and cultural life of Guyana; encouraging national understanding and participation among young people and reflecting all notions and excuses for racism, while fostering individual and sound discipline among

youths which is platformed by sound religious and moral values. Thank you your nomination.



Brandon J. Jones
Prime Ministerial
Candidate

URP FIRST 90 DAYS IN GOVERNMENT

The United Republican Party First 90 Days in Office will aspire to achieve the following:

- Launch an Economic Stimulus Program that will bring relief to a wide cross section of Guyanese
- Ensure that existing established laws are enforced
- Initiate a Poverty Eradication Program (PEP).
- Initiate Constitutional Reform
- Introduce Unemployment benefits backed by Technical & Vocational Training; and Retraining.
- Commence reform of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS)

URP



OBJECTIVES

- To present to Guyanese a manifesto that encapsulates programmes that will move the Guyanese economy in a positive direction.
- To set up, at all levels, government that will ensure that the basic needs of modern living, namely, food, portable water, shelter, primary health care, electric power access, road/waterways, base education (literacy/numeracy/skill), recreation/social amenities information/public enlightenment, among others are available in a fair and just manner to all Guyanese;
- To promote self-reliance through active and practical encouragement of small and medium scale industrial initiatives, handicraft and agriculture;
- To establish a policy

of poverty eradication through active government intervention in youth training which will directly impact youth unemployment and redundancy;

- To protect, promote and elevate the status of womanhood through various deliberate equalization methods such as equal salary for equal employment;

- To provide benefit for pensioners, the elderly, the handicapped, widows and unemployed;

- To protect the rights and privileges of children, including the unborn child, through appropriate legislations and welfare schemes;

- To represent the interest of the Guyanese masses by participation in key and strategic sectors of the

economy e.g. sugar and the sugar industry, rice trade and marketing; aggressive pursuit of nontraditional agriculture products; telecommunications; housing; fiscal/monetary control; scientific research and technological development specifically related to developing non-traditional sectors in relations to mining, etc.

- To create a hospitable private sector atmosphere for manufacturing and production business to thrive and prosper in Guyana; while ensuring proper protection for local industries and manufactures.

observance of the nation's ethical values and morality, especially truth, justice, honesty, equity, and the fear of God.

- To wage an ideological, moral, constitutional/legal war against corrupt practices, ethnicity and discipline in private and public life;

- To undertake all innovative activities that would eliminate or reduce practices, misery and uncertainty, foster liberty; enhance confidence, inculcate patriotism and nationalism, galvanize national unity and increase the quantum of happiness among Guyanese.

- To enhance primary health care especially to the hinterland areas with specific emphasis on Amerindian vil-

lages and other settlements not readily accessible.

- Enhancing compulsory basic education especially to the hinterland areas with specific emphasis on Amerindian villages and other settlements not readily accessible.

- To sponsor scientific research for technological development in agriculture, mining and tropical diseases affecting Guyana;

- To undertake any other activities or programs that would usher in positive change for the lasting benefit of all Guyanese.

Pillar 1 SETTING THE STAGE

As a nation we have come to the crossroad of our future and that of our future generations. This is a significant time, a turning point, and we are here because most of our citizens are disillusioned.

Disillusioned, not because of what we have become as a nation, but because we know where we should be as a country. Our failed economy gives Guyana a unique chance to confront persistent challenges and the many Constitutional and structural defects in our Constitution. Our country, after five decades of purposeless drift, Guyana must now set itself to the important tasks and higher goals of facing up to the painful truth; to correct Constitutional and structural imbalances; to remove Government erected barriers against self-reliance and allow economic emancipation for all; to replace a struggling economy with a vibrant and progress economy; without which development will continue to elude us as a people and a nation.

The United Republican Party (URP) vision is to remove all persons and political

persuasions who has cultivated, grow and continue to nurture this culture. The Party platform is to present to all Guyanese a vision for a Modern and Safe Guyana. Ensuring all people of this country have a chance to live comfortable. The URP is certain this reflects the views of countless Guyanese all across our country, who believe in Politics with Ethics; Religion with Tolerance; Action with Sympathy and Empathy; and Science with Spirituality.

This platform makes it clear that we are the party that is willing to put partisan politics, racism, social and cultural differences aside, and concentrate on our country's development. We are the party that follows its bold words with bold deeds. A party you can believe and a party that puts God first.

The URP has a special calling — to advance the principles of freedom, dismantle governance that has raped our country and the dignity and worth of every individual. By

so doing the URP believes these principles form the foundation of both an agenda for Guyana over the next five years and the platform for our party. They point us toward reforms in government, a restoration of lost values, and a renewal of our National Motto — One People, One Nation and One Destiny.

Our party is aware of the challenges facing our country. After decades of bitter division in national politics, economic wealth and racism, our party will bring people together, using the very things that divide us as a powerful force for unity, healthy competition and development, calling all citizens to common goals in terms of a party that will ensure we lead a government that is all inclusive, where economic wealth is equitably distributed, and where we can move away from identifying each other by ethnicity rather than by nationality. To longstanding challenges the URP bring a modern perspective and original ideas. All this

is all part of a bold Economic Stimulus Program (ESP), which will encapsulate a Poverty Eradication Program (PEP).

Pillar 2



The United Republican Party (URP) would be dedicated and committed once elected as the new government of the May 11, 2015 General Elections. As the government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana the URP will institute policies designed to bring relief to the economy and to assist in eradicating poverty. The main purpose of the proposed economic stimulus package will be to encourage consumer spending and gradually increasing the standard of living of all Guyanese. We at URP believe with increase consumers spending on locally produced goods and services, stimulation and encouragement of industrialization

will emerge in an attempt to supply the increase in demand for goods and services; this would result in creating new and explosive employment opportunities, hence recession can be reversed.

The Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) for Guyana will be tabled after elections in the 11th Parliament by the United Republican Party (URP). The package will be designed with the intention to quickly jump-start Guyana's economic growth, create thousands of new jobs, with an aim of offering relief to the thousands of youths currently unemployed.

The need for the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) The plan's main purpose is to put Guyanese back to work; to stem the destruction of the fabric of Guyana social infra-

structure; and to instill the confidence needed by local and foreign investors and the Guyanese public to restore and catalyze economic growth; and recovery in Guyana.

The URP's biggest challenge will be to ensure systems are in place to safeguard the working of the program. As such a Poverty Eradication Secretariat (PEPS) will be established.

URP's Economic Action Plan will:

- Make investments to assist the wide cross section of youths currently unemployed in gaining much needed technical and vocational skills and experience.
- Initiate projects to better connect workers over the age of 50 to potential employers. There are lots of already trained persons who are currently unemployed or under employed who need

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jobs that will fully utilize their skills.

- Invest to enable more Guyanese with disabilities to obtain work experience with small and medium-sized businesses.

- Support small and medium-sized businesses and their workers by making loans and training, respectively, available.

- Subsidizing professional skilled workers for Small and Medium sized businesses to ensure they are profitable.

- Promote job creation by initiating and supporting the involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises in the execution developmental infrastructure of the capital city and other major towns across the country; investing in transportation infrastructure, including a major roads to strategic parts of the country; development and maintenance of ports; and providing funding for community public infrastructure facilities.

BENEFITS OF PEP TO

FAMILIES

The Economic Stimulus Program for Guyana will bring relief to families in the following areas with income not exceeding GY\$100,000.00. The income will be assessed based on single parent families or families with combined income of GY\$100,000.00.

Direct Poverty Relief to every household will accrue based on eligibility for the provision catered for in the Poverty Eradication Package offered under the various specified areas.

SPECIFIED AREAS UNDER PEP

- Monthly subsidy on purchase of products and Services produced locally. These products will be specifically classified to include basic food supplies including items such as rice, sugar, flour, milk, cooking oil, specific quantity of chicken/beef/fish - Specifically intended to relief poverty and to jump start growth and expansion in manufacturing, packaging and labeling, canning, and bottling industries.

- Monthly aid for infants (Birth to Two years)

on supplies including pampers, baby milk, and other products associated with nutrition for babies - offering relief to single mothers.

- Subsidy for students attending University of Guyana for - helping University of Guyana (UG) students to pay for their education. This will also provide the University of Guyana administration with the necessary funds to pay lecturers improved salaries and rehabilitate the campuses.

- Yearly tax refunds on mortgage payment for families with income not exceeding GY\$100,000.00 - widening the spectrum of opportunity for Middle and Lower Class Guyanese to own their own homes. Guyanese will benefit from this relief for the next three years. This tax rebate will be paid out yearly when Tax Returns are filed.

- Uniform and Material Supplies for Pre and Nursery school children to purchase school supplies

- Uniform and Material Supplies for Primary School Students

- Uniform and Material Supplies for Secondary school student

Unemployment benefits
For persons who are unemployed at the start of the program, unemployment benefits will be offered under the above category for persons

who qualify for three months once they are registered with the Ministry of Labour Unemployment Programme and are receiving training in a recommended area to secure employment. These benefits will be for three (3)

months after which it is expected the beneficiary will secure employment.

MANUFACTURING & SERVICES

Loans will be made available under a special Small and Medium scale industry programme. This will be aimed to create jobs.

- Increase of old age pension and payments towards better health care for the elderly.

- Road, Bridges and Sea-Defence Upgrade - creating jobs

Administration of the Programme.

The URPs biggest challenge will be to ensure systems are in place to safeguard the working of the program. As such a Poverty Eradication Secretariat (PEPS) will be established.

PEPS will be responsible for the execution of the pro-

gramme in conjunction with all other stake holders such as the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; The Guyana Revenue Authority, The Ministry of Human Services, The Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and a wide cross-section of faith based organizations.

PEPS will be directly responsible for the implementation and execution of the day to day administration of the programme.

CATEGORY OF WORKERS EXPECTED TO BENEFIT

PEP is intended to benefit the following workers: Cane Cutters, Sugar Workers, The Police Force, Guyana Defence Force, Teachers, Nurses, Firemen / Women, and Prison Officers, Public Service workers, Private sector work-

ers, Rice Farmers and others.

QUALIFICATION FOR PEP

To qualify for the PEP programme the following must be fulfilled:

- Once you are citizen of Guyana, living and working in Guyana you are eligible to receive poverty relief.

- If you are unemployed and you are registered with the unemployment office and is receiving training /retraining

- Once you have a TIN # from the GRA

- Every member of the house hold must be attending school, must be gainfully employed, or registered for unemployment/old age pensioner.

- Once you are not working for a salary exceeding GY\$100,000.00



Pillar 3

The Guyana economy has numerous challenges. Unemployment is conservatively put at the highest in our country's history. Inflation has runaway into hundreds of percent. The Guyana currency needs to regain ground as it keeps slipping almost without worth domestically and internationally.

The framework for a Modern and Safe Guyana Economy must be set against a backdrop that brings hope and opportunities; a framework that reform the tax code, restructure the society

to allow for wealth creation at all levels, eliminate government barriers to self-reliance, eliminate constitutional defects that stop us from borrowing and allowing us to create foreign exchange; decentralize infrastructure delivery to empower local solutions to local problems, decentralize law enforcement to achieve lasting and enduring internal security, institutionalize a government where work is the order of the day and unemployment is a thing of the past. The result would be tremendous growth within the URPs first Term.

TAXES AND VAT:
A government can be defined as an entity that taxes and spends, under a URP Modern and Safe Guyana growing our economy must see less of Government and more of the private business community. The URP is committed to the economics of inclusion, a set of tax reforms that engenders self-supporting principles.

one that will let people keep more of what they earn and accelerate movement up the opportunity ladder. The URP therefore endorses the principles of Tax with a Purpose - Replacing the nation's unfair tax system with a simple code with a better sliding scale that allows the Middle and lower class to really enjoy benefits. As such under the Tax

Code for a Modern and Safe Guyana, the URP will level the playing field, giving the Middle Class more tax breaks, while setting the ground for an increase Middle Class and the shrinking of the Lower Class. In a true democracy the Middle Class is the engine of growth. As such a revamped Middle Class under the URP will allow our economy to once again grow, as more citizens will contribute in a more tangible way to the tax system.

Our growth oriented tax code will be the engine to lasting economic boom, and shall be

used to:

- Encourage entrepreneurship and targeted growth of the private sector.
- Promote Research and Development.
- Promote charitable giving and education.
- Foster capital investment and savings to boost personal savings rate. This is more than just an economic programme to promote growth and job creation. It is our blueprint for the kind of society we want for our children and grandchildren.

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Income taxes and payroll taxes are the most obvious parts of the public's tax burden directly tied to government. This is the type of taxation that should be encouraged in order to foster public scrutiny and government account-

ability. Indirect taxes, such as Sales Taxes, Value-Added Taxes, Excise Taxes and User Fees will be reviewed and made comfortable. These kinds of taxes shift the burden to the consumer, while exempting

government from direct responsibility. Unpopular governments use these taxes to shift public resentment to the businesses that are forced to collect them. Under a URP Government the Middle and Lower

Class workers will begin to receive returns on what they have invested in. They will receive the following: Yearly tax rebates on timely submission of tax returns
Yearly rebates on Mort-

gage Payments, this will work as an incentive and an encouragement to persons who own homes. A URP lead Government will not lobby for a reduction of VAT, but will use the proceeds of a better

regulated VAT collection system to support its Economic Stimulus Programme which is intended to ensure every Guyanese enjoy the fruits of a Modern and Safe Guyana.

Pillar 4

Every Guyanese dream is to own a home. Homeownership is sited as a major pillar in the drive by the URP to create a Modern and Safe Guyana. Where every family has access to facilities such as mortgage and loan advances to build their home. This is central to an expanding economy. The United Republican Party (URP) wants to make homeownership more accessible for everyone. This will start with access to capital for entrepreneurs and access to credit for consumers. To sustain economic growth, the URP Government will commit to assist thousands of low-income families move from renting to owning their homes via a Poverty Eradica-

tion Program (PEP) encapsulate in an Economic Stimulus Program. A URP government will guarantee and affordable low interest long-term mortgage loans to families under PEP. These mechanisms will be intended to open up more housing opportunities. URP will look for solutions to homeownership, where the monthly rent of the household is enough to pay monthly mortgage for a home.

HOME OWNER-



Affordable housing is in the national interest. A balanced national housing policy must recognize that decent housing includes apartments, and addresses the needs of all citizens, including families paying rent.

URP will encourage local communities to take over dormant government housing projects in order to revitalize such projects. URP commits to open housing, without favoritism, quotas or lengthy bureaucratic

controls, and we will encourage proactive efforts by the realty and housing industries to assure affordable access for everyone.

In many areas, housing prices are higher than they need to be because of regulations that have not been revived for years, drive up property and building costs. Some regulation is of course necessary, and so is sensible zoning. The URP will empower The Municipals and local Government to work with local builders and lenders to eliminate unnecessary burdens that price many families out of the market. We also encourage the modification of restrictions that inhibit the rehabilitation of existing distressed properties.

Pillar 5

We affirm that the small business is where prosperity starts. This is the stalls/store in the marketplace, the corner shops, and neighborhood centers. Small businesses are the underlying pillar of a vibrant economy. It is the place where the man on the street creates and sustains his wealth. If the small business is successful, the economy will follow. If it fails, the larger economy fails as well. Small businesses create most of the jobs and they are a measure of the opportunities within the community. They are the primary engines of econom-

ic advance by the Guyanese trader, man or woman. The more entrants to this sector, the more success in the nation's economy.

The macro economy is not isolated from the micro economies. The summation of the micro economies equals the macro economy. It stands to reason that once the people's businesses grow, so goes the country's economy. Therefore, Government effort should be to develop and implement policies that support the growth of the trader in the marketplace. This is a key ingredient to unleash sustainable economic growth.

Small Business:

In a dynamic and enduring economy, small businesses generate more than half the gross domestic product. Any other equation is a mirage. Inherent in a small business is the willingness to give people a chance and the ability to train individuals new to the work force. These are pre-requisites to a workfare economy.

In recognition there-

of, we will provide initiatives, such as lower tax rates, minimum red tape, limited legal and product liability, and the aggressive expansion of regional and overseas markets for their goods and services. We will end the constant harassment of small businesses by government agencies and set up a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Board to liaise with trade unions and organizations in

order to protect the small business from corrupt and overzealous government agencies, requiring the government and Local Governments to do the same.

Ensuring contribution to the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) is a major challenge for small business owners. Self-employed business men and women or workers employed by small businesses are general difficult to collect NIS. This is one area that gov-

ernment must focus to implement private sector cooperative initiatives to ensure small businesses nationwide have mechanism in place to pay NIS and to collect income taxes.



IT'S GOING TO BE HUGE

Pillar 6

International trade has become the world's most powerful economic force. International trade is not the creation of the world's rulers, but of the world's peoples, who strive for a better future and break down any barriers governments may erect to it. The result is today's global economy of open markets in democratic nations. That system is poised to sweep

away the vestiges of counter-productive protectionism. For our economy to grow, we must overcome the welfare mentality that keeps us imprisoned in a few export products, example Rice, Sugar and Gold/ Diamond which constitute almost our entire economy. Guyana can be a key player in the international market for a number of agro-based products. This is where our strength

lies. A URP lead Government commit to a call for action, not mere words. In general, average wages, in export-related industries are significantly higher than those of domestically focused industries. As for agriculture, exports is the key to regaining what

was lost and returning Guyana to the true position of the food basket of the Caribbean and the world. This must be measured. All agro-based government agencies should be placed under the umbrella of the Guyana Marketing Corporation and will be reformed into export-oriented ag-

gressive concerns, with specific product strength set by regional location. There is no point in spending lots of government money for decades in agencies that do not produce anything, but hide under the pretext of being research facilities. Success should be measured by the capacity of such agencies to meet their specific product quotas for export or local consumption. Non-performing agencies will

be re-assessed, reformed or reformed for effectiveness. We should go back to the agricultural cooperatives of old, using the agro-based agencies as clearing houses for pre-harvest and post-harvest support and resources for the local farmer and the cooperatives. New ideas in small and low cost mechanization will be developed and directed to the local farmer.

TRADE MODERNISED ECONOMIC FREEDOM:

Pillar 7

Governments do not create wealth. The people do - through creativity and enterprise and risk-taking. With information technology, people in bondage can taste freedom, and people in freedom can bond more securely with each other. People who used to work for others can now be independent entrepreneurs. And citizens can drill through layers of entrenched bureaucracy to directly access information and transact business.

URP has embraced this mental Modernization concept, for it advances the central values of our party and our country: a reduced role for the central government, greater personal liberty, economic freedom, reliance on the market and decentralized decision making. This is the national revolution - rewarding creativity, hard work, tenacity, and a willingness to take (entrepreneur) risks.

The URP recognizes that the role of

government in a Modern Economy is to foster an environment where innovation can flourish. The Information Revolution is the product of the creative efforts and hard work of men and women in the private sector, and not of government bureaucrats. At the same time, we recognize the magnitude and pace of change require vigilance to make the most of its opportunities and to mitigate its possible difficulties. For what we have experienced thus far is surely only the beginning of almost inconceivable growth, change, and more change. Let others be fearful in the face of it, but let our country grasp the opportunity and join the brave.

The impact of the Internet on the daily workings of government to make it more responsive and citizen-centered is an important aspect of laying the platform for a modern and safe Guyana. Democracy thrives on

well-informed citizens, and with this initiative, the public will have unprecedented access to the workings of government, including the voting records of their legislative members and the written opinions of judges, whose decisions will now be available for review in the court of public opinion. We commit to global mar-

kets and free trade.

We must cultivate and maintain a highly educated work force so that continued progress need not depend on imported personnel. Instead of burdening schools with red tape and narrow government programs, we will give them maximum flexibility in using Government/state education

technology dollars to meet their specific needs - whether it be for computers, teacher

training, software development, or systems integration.

We must speed up the research and innovation drive technology progress, using military as a key vehicle to achieve the same.

We must protect the technology industry from modern day pirates at home and abroad: both those who violate copyrights and those who loot by litigation.

We must restrain the hand of government so that it cannot smother or slow the growth of worldwide commerce and communication through the Internet.

We must encourage government at all levels to work with the private sector to ensure that the Internet

must be a medium for everyone. URP embraces a creative, incentive-based, public/private approach to solving national technology problems, and a URP president will use the influence of his office to urge high-tech philanthropy, such as the creation of one community technology center every year in each Administrative area. The centers will provide such services as free Internet access and technology skills training.

Government also has a responsibility to protect personal privacy, which is the single greatest concern people have about the Information Revolution. Citizens must have the confidence that their personal privacy will be respected in the use of technology by both business and government. That privacy is an essential part of our personal freedom and our family life, and it must not be sacrificed in the name of progress. At the same time, consumers should have the benefit of new products, services, and treatments that result from the legitimate use of data with appropriate safeguards.



TECHNOLOGY AND THE MODERN ECONOMY



Pillar 8

Under the United Republican Party (URP) leadership, a Modern and Safe Guyana will move away from irresponsible and destructive culture that has impacted our education system for much too long. Guyana has been able to gain grounds at the Nursery and the Primary levels. It is at the Secondary level we are failing. This system needs to be strengthened.

We must understand that a good and civil society cannot be developed only by government programs but must originate in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in the private institutions that bring us together. The URP calls for personal responsibility and community vigilance across the board, a

culture that concentrates on only one faction of its citizenry in terms of development cannot excel. Proper achievement can only be made if it is done in a holistic manner.

The URP commit to the enduring principle that challenges ought to be approached with compassion to evolve a society where everyone has a responsibility to follow the rules, but no one would be left behind.

Real Education Improvement: Accountability & Empowering Parents
No child in Guyana should be segregated by low expectations, imprisoned by illiteracy or abandoned to frustration and the darkness of self-doubt.



EDUCATION

LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

We have to ask the question, "Are our schools better off today than they were in the past?" At a time of remarkable change, when a world of opportunity awaits students who are prepared for it, Guyana colleges and universities are

offering remedial courses and Guyana businesses are unable to find enough qualified or trainable workers to meet local demand. Worst of all, so many of our children, Guyana's most precious asset, are headed toward failure in school, and

that will hold them back throughout their lives. The United Republican Party desires a better result. We believe that every child in this land should have access to a high quality, indeed, a world-class education, and we're determined to meet that goal.

It is long past time to debate what works in education, for our schools to survive we need a collective effort from all stakeholders including strong parental involvement.

- Excellent teachers.
- Safe and orderly classrooms.
- High academic standards.
- Commitment to

teaching the basics - from an early start in phonics to mastery of computer technology.

Government programs that fail to support these fundamental principles are sadly out of date, out of sync, and if not corrected soon, out of time.

For dramatic and swift improvement in education, we, at the URP, endorse the following principles to:

- Raise academic standards through increased local control and accountability to parents
- Putting Systems in place to ensure that every child who is promoted without the required academic achievement receive after school teaching.

Continued on next page

• Ensure that all children learn to read by introducing and encouraging nationwide "Early Start Program" for pre-school children and by facilitating state reading initiatives that focus on scientifically based reading research, including phonics.

Nothing is more important than literacy, and yet many children have trouble reading. This problem must be addressed at all grade levels. And as is so often the case in education, the solution is parent and child working together with teachers to help break a cycle of illiteracy that may have extended from generation to generation. URP wants to replace that pattern with the rich legacy of reading.

The education and achievement gap between disadvantaged children and their peers are ever so wide, since no previous government made any serious or credible effort to integrate them into the mainstream education strata. The United Republication Party hereby commits to programmes and reforms, based on the timeless principles of local control, with accountability, parental involvement, and meaningful student achievement, to rectify the tragic fiscal and human

loss. To this end, the government shall assume a special financial responsibility to advance the education of the disadvantaged children. We cannot allow nor afford another generation of children to be written off.

Qualified teachers are the vanguard of education reform. With mastery of their subjects, a contagious enthusiasm for learning, and a heartfelt commitment to their students, they can make any school great. That is why we advocate quality pay for them and expanded opportunities for professional development. Today, however, many teachers face poverty and disrespect in their profession. We advocate a zero-tolerance policy toward all students who disrupt the classroom and we reaffirm that school officials must have the right and responsibility to appropriately discipline all students within the confines of the United Nations Charter for the protection of the child – which Guyana is a signatory

to, including students with disabilities, who are disruptive or violent. Toward the same end, we will encourage faith-based and community organizations to take leading roles in after-school programs that build character and improve behavior. We propose to improve teacher training and recruiting by introducing Retiree-to-Teachers pro-

grams, which places retired military and Public Service personnel of good standing in the classroom, and by rewarding regions that enact a system for teacher accountability. We will introduce interest free long-term teacher student loan programs to

encourage qualified candidates into the profession and home grant programs to encourage qualified teachers to serve in high-need schools. As a matter of fairness, we will look for ways to help defray out-of-pocket teaching expenses, which many good teachers in private and public schools make to the benefit of their students.

A URP government will require that Government provide free and appropriate education to all students with special needs (disabilities) and fund their schooling at higher levels. In return, the government will defray a percent of the average per pupil expenditure to cover the ex-

cess costs. We will strive to promote the early diagnosis of learning deficiencies. Preventive efforts in early childhood should reduce the demand for special education and help many youngsters move beyond the need for special protections. In the final analysis, education remains a parental right and responsibility. We advocate choice in education, not as an abstract theory, but as the surest way for families, especially low-income families, to free their youngsters from failing schools and put them onto the road to opportunity and success. Higher Education: Increased Access for All One of the most important education objectives of the United Republication Party is to make available the opportunity for post-secondary education to virtually everyone. As such more private institutions of higher learning will be encouraged. Let the institutions make decisions regarding admission, curriculum, grading and graduation, with guidelines, checks and balances against

abuse provided by the governments. The ultimate goal of the nation should be to have, at a minimum, one post-secondary institution in each Region in the country supported by a combination of local, resources through student loans and grants tied to specific achievements. The institutions should derive their resources through student fees and levies. In turn, the students utilize private resources, government matched education savings account or achievement based student loans or grants to fund their education. This is the recipe to join the best higher education systems in the world, where achievement counts more than money or social status. Let the schools that cater for the needs of the society and make themselves relevant in the Guyana marketplace survives. Herein lies the solution to functional tertiary education. The challenges we face today, in the technological revolution and in the global economy, require us to continue to expand the extent and excellence of higher education. This is why we commit to programmes that increase access to higher education for qualified students.



Pillar 9

Guyana can only be successful when it is able to offer a realistic shot at a better life; when poverty becomes just a stage, not a fate; when anyone can ascend the ladder and transcend the shackles of birth; when it provides hope.

URP wants to expand opportunity rather than expand government. We want to give hope and real upward mobility to those who have never known either. It is clear that the neo-conservative order of ultra-centralization has collapsed in abject failure, riddled with corruption, gross inefficiency and class segregation, failing in its entirety to serve the people, the poor and the masses.

The time is here to act, to bring hope, to expand opportunity. Our vision is

to actualize innovative reforms to successfully move families and governments from dependency to the independence of work and wealth creation. It won't be easy, but the results will surely worth the effort.

Increase the supply of affordable housing for low-income working families and rehabilitate abandoned housing through a mix of local and government partnership initiatives. Establish corporate tax credits to create incentives for the private sector to

A Modern & Safe Guyana: Seats for All at the Welcome Table

provide affordable housing to qualified employees. Build savings and personal wealth through Individual Development Accounts, in partnership with banks, to accelerate the savings of low-income earners for home ownership and other

targeted individual development goals.

For many individuals, poverty signals more than the lack of money. It often represents obstacles that cannot be overcome with just a paycheck. These are the challenging cases,

where government aid is least effective. These, too, are the situations where neighborhood and faith-based intervention has its greatest power. For this reason, the URP shall mandated charitable choice in all welfare laws, allowing states to contract with faith-based providers for welfare services on the same basis as any other private providers. This is necessary to help conquer suicide, abuse, addiction, and hopelessness.

URP will encourage an outpouring of giving by extending charity tax credits to individual and corporate taxpayers and by allowing

people to make donations tax-free.

The renewal of entire communities is a tremendous task and involves one human face, one human heart at a time. But the Guyanese people have the potential to work wonders. Government does have a role to play, but as a partner, not a rival. These forces have roots in the areas they serve, and their leaders are people to whom the disadvantaged are not statistics, but family, neighbors, friends, and moral individuals created in the image of God. With these approaches government becomes a partner with community and faith-based providers in supporting families and children and helping them improve their opportunities for a better life.



Pillar 10



Children at Risk

URP recognizes the importance of a functional home in the life of any child. The family still provides the best environment of stability, discipline, responsibility, and character. Documentation shows that where the father is delinquent, children are more likely to commit crime, drop out of school, become violent, become teen parents, take illegal drugs, become mired in poverty, or have emotional or behavioral problems.

The participation of faith-based and community groups will be especially important in dealing with the twin problems of non-marital pregnancy and substance

abuse. Reducing those behaviours is the surest way to end the cycle of child poverty. After-school programs should be fully open to the community and faith-based groups that know best how to reach out to our children and help them reach their true potential.

URP recognizes that children often pay the highest price in families where drug addiction and the daily reality of violence exist. We will support programmes to remedy such problems through a mix of governmental and faith-based initiatives.

Still, there is no substitute for presidential leadership, whether internationally or here at home, where

Guyana's families cry out for safe, drug-free, and functional schools. A URP president will hear those cries and work with parents to protect children. We will bring accountability to anti-drug programmes, promote those that work, and cease undoing those that waste resources.



sources. Equally important, in a URP administration, trafficking or using illegal drugs laws will be enforced to aggressively pursue drug dealers, from the kingpins to the street dealers.

Illegal drugs and alcohol abuse are closely related to the incidence of child abuse.

The URP Government will initiate programs to help both children and adults in abusive or neglectful families, with priorities on preventive and family support services. We must introduce a functional child protection system, with accountability, to oversee willful or accidental neglect, ranging from physical and psychological abuse to commercial exploitation of the Guyanese child. URP believes that any child ought to be in school rather than being used for commercial benefit or any other enterprise during normal school seasons.

For many of those children, adoption may be the only route to a stable and loving

home. Government at all levels should work with the charitable and faith-based groups that provide adoption services to remove the obstacles they sometimes encounter in their efforts to unite children in need with families who need them.

We call for government and local efforts to help the many children of prisoners through pre-schools, mentoring, and family rebuilding programmes. These children are often the ignored victims of crime. Early intervention in their plight is essential to reduce the cycle of violence and to save a child. We should be tough on criminals but compassionate towards their children.

Pillar 11

RENEWING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Individual rights — and the responsibilities that go with them — are the foundation of a free society. In protecting those rights, and in asserting those responsibilities, we affirm the common good and common goals that should unite all Guyanese.

We are the party of the open door, determined to strengthen the social, cultural, and political ties that bind us together and make our country a great force for good in Guyana and beyond. Steadfast in

our commitment to our ideals, we recognize that members of our party can have deeply held and sometimes differing views. This diversity is a source of strength, not a sign of weakness, and so we welcome into

our ranks all who may hold differing positions. We commit to resolve our differences with civility, trust, and mutual respect.



Pillar 12

FAMILY MATTERS:

The family is society's central core of energy. That is why efforts to strengthen and better family life are the surest way to improve life for everyone. We must rely on the home to instill the virtues that sustain democracy itself.

Just as environmental pollution affects our physical health, so too does the pollution of our culture affect the health of our communities. There is much to celebrate in contemporary culture, but also much to deplore: The glorification of violence, the glamorizing of drugs, the abuse of wom-

en and children, whether in music or videos, advertising, or tabloid journalism. URP Government will support and encourage individuals and organizations using their power as citizens and consumers to advance cultural modernization in all aspects of the Guyanese life.

Their efforts will be critically important in this Information Age, which, with all its tremendous benefits, brings a major challenge to families. When there are reports that porn sites are the most frequently accessed on the Internet, it is time for

parents at home — and communities through their public institutions — to take action. We will endorse legislation to require schools and libraries to secure their computers against on-line porn and predators if they are connected to the Internet. This is not a question of free speech or freedom of association. Kids should not be victims of filth, and porn addicts should not use school library facilities for their addiction. Although Guyana is yet to join the information revolution, now is the time to act, not when it is too late.

Pillar 13: UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF ALL:

Equality of individuals before the law has always been a cornerstone of our party. We therefore oppose discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion, creed, disability, ethnicity or national origin and will vigorously enforce anti-discrimination statutes. As we strive to forge a national consensus on the crucial issues of our time, we call on all Guyanese to reject the forces of hatred and bigotry. Accordingly, we denounce all who practice or promote racism, ethnic prejudice, and religious intolerance.

We believe rights are inherent in individuals, not in groups. We will attain our nation's goal of equal opportunity without favoritism, quotas or other forms of preferential treatment. It is as

simple as this: No one should be denied a job, promotion, contract, or chance at higher education because of their race, ethnic origin, gender, religion or disability. Equal access, energetically offered, should guarantee every person a fair shot based on their potential and merit.

An essential part of a culture that respects life is integration and inclusion of persons with disabilities. URP will pursue initiatives in research and practical assistance that can help individuals with disabilities live independently, hold jobs, and take part in the daily life of their communities.

We affirm the right of individuals to voluntarily participate in labour organizations and



to bargain collectively. We therefore support the right of governments to enact Right-to-Work laws. No one should be forced to contribute to a political campaign or a political candidate.

Pillar 14: Six Races, One Guyana:

The United Republication Party recognizes that our country's ethnic diversity must share a common and unique national culture to transcend the differences that have held us hostage for the past five decades. To benefit from our diversity, we must strengthen the ties that bind us to one another. We must move away from the ethnic differences such as Indo and Afro Guyanese. We are One People, One Nation, moving towards One Destiny. As such we must refer to ourselves as Guyanese.

A URP lead Government will ensure Guyana as a country once again engenders in its people nationhood, and as such patriotism must become the hallmark of our very existence. We must develop the symbols of nationhood, foremost among them is the flag and the National Anthem. We must guard against deliberate desecration or disre-

spect to both symbols of national unity.

Another sign of our unity is the role of English as our official language. If we must relate to one another, we must have a common language to communicate. It is important that every Guyanese be able to communicate in that common language, while not forsaking our healthy and diverse dialectic heritage. Common language is vital if groups of diverse background have to come together to build a nation. While fluency in English should be made a necessary goal to every Guyanese, we also advocate mastery of other languages to enhance Guyana's competitiveness in the world market. We advocate foreign language training in our schools and the fostering of respect for other languages and cultures throughout our society.

We believe that there is strength in our diversity. But

to realize that strength, we must harness the good rather than the evil inherent in our differences. Diversity can be a good foundation for healthy competition, rather than the destructive and self-serving rivalry so commonly employed in our society today. To reap the benefits of our differences, we must educate ourselves about each other cultures without imposing it on each other.

A URP lead Administration will ensure constitutional and structural substance to the 10 Administrative Regions, and decentralizing infrastructure, wealth creation and law enforcement accordingly, we will unleash healthy geopolitical competition in the development of the 10 Administrative Regions, no unit desiring to be left behind. As the Regions develop, so develops the nation, the central government playing the role of an umpire to ensure that no unit is left too far behind.

Pillar 15



JUSTICE AND SAFETY IN A MODERN AND SAFE GUYANA:

Most Guyanese over the age of forty remember a time when villages, towns, streets and highways were safe, doors maybe unlocked and windows maybe unbarred. A time when high-rise walls and security wires did not imprison us in our homes. The elderly did not live in fear and the young did not die in execution style murders, sometimes perpetrated by the service men we dole out tax payers dollars to secure us. Kidnapping was unheard of, and corruption was a scorned, shameful and reprehensible act. That world is now gone, swept away in the social upheaval provoked by the poverty now plaguing our economy, which introduced the notion that wealth can be attained without enterprise and hard work.

We cannot go back to that time of innocence, but we can go forward, step by challenging step, to recreate respect for law and law that is worthy of respect. Most of that effort must come at the community and local levels, where it is universally acknowledged that the primary responsibility for law enforcement resides. While we support community policing and other proven initiatives against crime, we strongly oppose the continued and dictatorial usurpation of that responsibility by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which has led to the current government of gross insecurity of life and property in our community and conflict with the regular policing authority. Under a URP lead Government, along with community and local

leaders will take a zero tolerance approach to crime, and will be empowered under a decentralized law enforcement structure to implement crime fighting initiatives, with local accountability, to drastically lower crime, assassination and murder rates in their sphere of influence.

At the same time, the URP recognizes the crucial leadership role the President, the National Assembly and the Judiciary should play in restoring public safety. The central leadership, in cooperation with Community leaders and local officials who are the front line against crime, should work within proper policing jurisdiction, to enact legislation for an effective deterrent penalty for offenders, restitution to victims of crime or the survivors thereof, removal of criminal aliens, vigilance against possible terrorism, and the coordination of services, personnel training, equipment and technology employed in crime fighting.

The reliance of the Guyana Police Force on one central police command seated at Police Headquarters Eve Leary can never guarantee law & order in Guyana. In a country with eighty three thousand square miles, the Guyana Police Force cannot look effectively at policing per person only as a criterion; rather we must consider policing in terms of the volume of square miles that has to be policed. This must be done using the following guidelines:

The involvement of huge command and control logistics that

will eliminate gross inefficiency and abuse that has become the norm.

To control such large areas and an already porous border will require effective communication and technological equipment.

The expansion of the marine arm of the Guyana Police Force to work with the Guyana Defence Force Coast Guard in joint operations

The Establishment of joint service air patrol, which will effectively deal with the massive land mass that needs to be secure.

This has been the grey area in a seemingly insurmountable internal security problem in Guyana. Because of its highly centralized structure, there is no police presence in majority of the villages, towns and hinterland in Guyana.

Law enforcement presence is often limited to Police Stations or Outposts in strategic areas, but because of the erosion of the social fabric in our society the enforcement of law and order requires a more frontal approach and as such there is a need to strengthen the numbers in the Guyana Police force and to have combined patrol with the Guyana Defence Force. Guyana has a very unique situation where 80% of the land is occupied by 20% of the population (Hinterland) and 20%

of the land is occupied by 80% of the population (Coastal Land) thereby creating a huge hiding place across the country for criminals. Due to the lack of local police presence, lots of villages are affected by crime and the Ministry of Home Affairs Community Policing Group cannot effectively assist in the situation working parallel. As such the Community policing group under a URP lead Administration will fall direct under the preview of the Guyana Police Force Ordinance.

URP recognizes that Law & Order is the key to the infusion of foreign investment, without which industrialization and economic growth will forever elude Guyana. In order to ensure sound and sustainable security in the society, a URP government will pursue fundamental restructuring of law enforcement, as follows:

National Drug Strategy Master Plan.

The Guyana Police Force Turn Around Plan.

Police to oversee regulations and intensify investigation of crimes in the Hinterland areas.

A URP president will: Advance an agenda to restore the public's safety.

Initiate productive work requirements in prison to make criminals pay for damages resulting from their criminal activities, while

also serving as effective rehabilitation program for the convicts.

Increase penalties and resources to combat the production, trafficking and use of illegal drugs.

Encourage community-based diversion programs for first time, non-violent offenders. Such offenders can be easily rehabilitated. Hence, the need to avoid exposure to seasoned criminals in conventional jails and Prisons

Reform exclusionary practices, which allow countless criminals, particularly white collar, to get off on technicalities.

Advance initiatives to protect victims' rights or the rights of survivors to victims of crime, at every stage of the criminal justice system.

Establish a National Sentencing Commission, with few seats mandated and reserved for victims of violent crimes.

Crimes against women and children demand an emphatic response. That is why we must have a Law requiring local notification when sex offenders are released from jail, and why we advocate special penalties against thugs who, in assaults against pregnant women, harm them or their unborn children. Obscenity and child pornography laws, especially crimes involving the Internet, must be reviewed, updated and vigorously enforced.

A URP government will revisit the whole area of juvenile justice system with the intent to review it, update and ensure that juveniles are not bundled with seasoned

criminals in common detention facilities. This is rooted in our belief that every child of bad or criminal behavior can be salvaged. Juvenile crime demands special attention. A functional juvenile justice system must incorporate punishment for the crime committed, open the criminal proceedings to victims and the public, make conviction records readily available, enforce accountability for offenders, parents, and judges, and temper mercy with justice where appropriate.

Any juvenile who commits any crime while carrying a gun should automatically be detained, not released to someone's custody. URP urges localities to consider zero-tolerance for juvenile drinking and driving and early intervention to keep delinquency from escalating to crime. While recognizing the important role of both parents to the well-being of their children, we must acknowledge the critical need for positive role models for our children.

With regard to school safety, URP will encourage local school systems to develop and publicize a single system of discipline for all students who commit offenses involving drugs or violence in school.

Through research, grants, and joint task forces, should encourage smarter, more effective anti-crime efforts. In particular, The URP advocates assistance to police for their personal protection, continuing education and training, and family care of security personnel who die in the line of duty.

Pillar 16 Clamp Down on Government Corruption

The very foundation for a free society has been under assault for decades under the PPP/C Rule, not only by criminals from the ground up, but also from the top down. A government that lives by evasion, cover-ups, stonewalling, corruption and duplicity has given us a totally discredited law enforcement

system. The credibility of those who now manage the nation's law enforcement agencies is tragically eroded. The same goes for the credibility of the career workforce – the criminal prosecutors and their foot soldiers, the rank and file of the Guyana Police. The politiciza-

tion of decisions regarding both personnel and investigations has not helped matters either.



Pillar 17 SOCIAL SECURITY & THE ELDERLY: URP Pledge to Guyana

The National Insurance Scheme (NIS) under a URP lead government would be revamped to embrace modern technological and improved systems to better benefit contributors. A URP Government will make

the National Security NIS program a national priority. Personal contributions will be the cornerstone of the programme. Each of today's workers would be given an opportunity to contribute a direct portion of their

payroll taxes to personal investments for their retirement future. It is crucial that individuals be offered a variety of investment alternatives and that detailed information be provided to each participant to help them

judge the risks and benefits of each plan. This is a challenge that demands the kind of presidential leadership the country has not seen before.

SECURITY FOR RETIRED GUYANESE

For most Guyanese, retirement means difficulties. URP wants to change this. In today's economy, there are far more opportunities for the elderly to have better economic security and avenues employment after retirement must be open up to allow for a better life.

Retired persons must be given the opportunity to impart their skills and receive a reward.

The URP will simplify pension laws and make it easier for more business-

es, especially small ones, to offer pension plans. The growing need for long-term care calls for long-term planning both by individuals and by government. We encourage, at all levels of gov-

ernment, to encourage further tax breaks for families who care for their parents at home, they will be, recognized and rewarded for this responsibility. We will encourage tax credits for each elderly spouse, parent, or relative a family tends to keep in their own residence.

quality and standards. In this area, as in so many other unheralded corners of the Guyanese life, heroic sacrifices are being made by many families to care for their mothers and fathers as their parents cared for them. This is good and very Guyanese in terms of the extended family. In a Modern Guyana economy, URP lead Government will encourage families who care for their parents at home, they will be, recognized and rewarded for this responsibility. We will encourage tax credits for each elderly spouse, parent, or relative a family tends to keep in their own residence.



Pillar 18



QUALITY HEALTH CARE: A URP COMMITMENT TO

We must re-engineer our health system. This is a national urgency. The URP recognizes that an individual's health is often a reflection of the everyday choices made. While government's role is to help ensure a quality health care system, only individuals can make healthy choices.

We must acquire and translate the promise of medical research into readily available treatments, and this requires more than just money; it needs a whole new prescription for health care. That prescription is what the United Republication Party offers in the elections of 2015.

Let's start with the diagnosis. After five decades of neglect by virtually all the governments of this country, the foundations of our health care system have collapsed. We must learn how to heal ourselves.

A URP vision for a healthy Guyana embodies a modern thinking as it relates to all. Over 60% of people living in Guyana are unhealthy.

Under a URP government social standards will be improved as such persons will be able to eat healthier, there will be less stress and less related complications as a result of stress.

There is no doctor-patient relationship, which is the universal basis for a functional and effective health care delivery.

Another key step will be reform of malpractice law. You will be hard pressed to determine if one exists at the moment. URP commits to malpractice reforms that will discourage health care providers from concealing mistakes for fear of being vilified by the trial lawyers. We must open up the free flow of information concerning medical errors, both to protect patients and to reduce the cost of modern medicine. Patients who are genuinely injured should be rightly compensated, but the punitive and random aspects of litigation will be restrained. Just as we hold all health care personnel to the highest standards, so too must public policy respect their ethical conscience. No individual or institution should be compelled to

assist in providing any medical service that violates their moral or religious convictions.

WOMEN'S HEALTH.

In URP, we hold dear the health and vitality of our families. Our efforts to build healthier families must begin with women — our mothers, daughters, grandmothers and grand-daughters. This nation needs far greater focus on the needs of women who have historically been under represented in medical research and access to the proper level of medical attention. We will reverse this trend.

Across this country, and at all levels of government, we will be at the forefront in aggressively developing health care initiatives targeted specifically at the needs of women. And we will

lead efforts to reach out to under-served and rural and Hinterland female populations, where disparities persist in life expectancy, infant mortality and death rates from preventable infections and other illnesses.

We are dedicated to pursuing comprehensive women's health care initiatives that include access to state-of-the-art medical advances and technology; equality for women in the delivery of health care services. The URP will increasingly focus upon health problems of the very elderly, both women and men. Because nutrition is intimately related to health, we advocate vigorous government involvement in flexible nutrition programs for low-income families

— the poor, the disabled, children and the elderly.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

This is another failed sector of the dysfunctional Guyana health system. The sobering statistics is that many of our children have died in the past decade over preventable or curable diseases. Youth drug abuse has increased exponentially.

Smoking rates for youth have risen alarmingly, even among young girls, which used to be unthinkable and a taboo just about a decade ago. Birth fatalities are on the rise. So much of the suffering and deaths caused by childhood diseases can be prevented — by increasing immunization rates; by increasing resources for biomedical research; by encouraging low priced local alternatives to expensive drugs; by encouraging pharmaceutical progress; by sensible strategies against teen smoking not merely prohibition; by a real battle against illegal drugs in place; etc. The URP's commitment is to address the emotional, behavioral, and men-

tal illnesses affecting children. With parental involvement as the critical component, we can help our youth make the healthy and the right choice in avoiding risky behaviors involving alcohol, drugs, premarital sex, tobacco, and violence.

Medical Privacy: The revolution in information and medical technology has created concerns about who has access to personal data — and how it might be used. Patients and their families should feel free to share all medical information with their doctor, but they will feel safe in doing so only if that information is protected. A related concern is genetic discrimination, now that genetic testing has become a routine part of medical health care. Well-conceived, thoughtful action is clearly needed, action that will protect and not harm patients. A URP led government will work with patients, health care providers, researchers, and insurers to establish new rules for dealing with these new challenges.

Pillar 19

Conservation, Preservation and the Exploitation of Natural resources

The United Republication Party is committed to responsible and accountable stewardship of the nation's natural resources. Guyana has vast untouched Natural Resources in the form of flora and fauna. This must be protected at all cost. The way to do so is to educate our citizens about what is conservation and allow them to trust their innate good sense and decency of being Guyanese people to do so.

URP will develop Private/Public partnerships, rather than give our lands to foreign entities to rape our resources. URP will ensure we get back on a common track, so that both the people and their government can jointly focus on harnessing and utilizing our natural resources in the most efficient manner. URP affirms that economic prosperity and environmental protection can and must advance together. Prosperity should give our society the ability to advance environmental protection, and a thriving natural environment enhances the quality of life that makes prosperity worthwhile. URP believe the government's main role should be to pro-

vide market-based incentives to innovate and develop the new technologies for Guyanese to engage in regulated exploitation of our natural resources and ensure that environmental standards are met in that pursuit.

URP's believes that the Government derives its legitimacy from the people, and as such should seek the people's cooperation in reaching consensus on matters vital to the security and well-being of the people. We should work

co-operatively to ensure that our natural resources and environmental policies reflect the particular needs of geographic regions, localities and the residents thereof. Natural resource and environmental policies should focus on achieving results — cleaner air, water, and land management — not crafting bureaucratic processes and forcefully appropriating what belongs to the governments

and the localities. Where resource and environmental standards are violated, the government should apply consistent enforcement. We recognize that the very nature of resource and environmental concerns at times require government intervention. However, we affirm that a culture of sustained economic growth and progress can be cultivated when the government and localities are freed to demonstrate their unique abilities to manage local resources and solve the associated environmental problems at the local level, the center applying necessary

sary oversight via tax levies, royalties, legislations and regulations.

Pillar 20

Tourism

Guyana Tourist Industry — A Sleeping Giant.

Tourism is one of the most untapped natural resource that is available in Guyana. Under a URP lead Government, this Natural resource will be given the impetus to become a major earner for the Guyana economy and one which must be given focus as it relates to protection and exploitation of this most valuable resource of our country.

UPR Administration will work with the various stakeholders, locally and internationally to ensure the infrastructure is in place to jumpstart a viable Eco Tourism. One of the most important aspects that are impeding the development of tourism is security and the confidence that Guyana is secure, A URP lead Administration will engender in

the security forces a sense of real service and protection and a well-planned tourism sensation plan will be developed to educate Guyanese about tourism. At the moment tourism is being developed in isolation, this must change and change quickly if the industry is to be a success.

There must be parallel development of the infrastructure and the education of the various stakeholders in the service industry and citizens as a whole towards tourism, especially in terms of behavioral norms. The growth of the tourism industry in Guyana must be guided by a Master Plan which will be formulated after all-embracing consultation with stakeholders. Areas to be looked at will involve the following institutions, Ministries and Organizations

which must all contribute to the plan in a harmonious way.

Among the stakeholders will be:

- The security forces — This is one of the most critical factor in the process of reshaping a tourist perspective for Guyana.
- The Ministry of Works and Infrastructure — This ministry must work with the relevant stakeholders to ensure first and foremost that a well thought out plan is in place to bridge and construct roads to every Administrative region in Guyana.
- The Hotel Industry
- The Airport Authority
- The Cruise lines of the world
- THAG
- Ministry of Health
- Banking & Financial institutions



Pillar 21:

Agriculture in a Modern and Safe Guyana

Guyana the Bread Basket of the Caribbean, Under a URP led Administration the dream will be finally realized. It is universally known that agriculture is at the heart of justifiable economic growth. The criminal neglect of the agricultural sector and the deliberate disinterest in diversifying farming solutions that work.

In all our agrarian policies and programmes, the URP will be guided by the following principles:

- Duty Free Concession for Agricultural Machinery
- Duty Free concession for agricultural spares
- Duty free concession for fuel

Guyana agriculture, prosperity depends not only on domestic consumption, but, in a large measure, on expansion to the global markets. Guyana is fortunate in that we have span of fertile land and distributed production of exportable farm produce. A URP led government is determined to turn Guyana into an agricultural powerhouse for the Caribbean in particular and the world at large. Our Government will engage in bilateral and global negotiations to open key trade markets in consumer nations. We will focus on production for domestic consumption, while tying export produce to target markets, not as an afterthought, but from the drawing board. A URP led government will particularly focus on opening the largely populated Asian markets like China and India, while not neglecting key produce for the European and American continents.

We reaffirm our strong support for agricultural research, including biotech and biomass

research, and for a permanent research and development tax credit. We reaffirm our support for cooperative partnerships between government, local governments and private landowners for the conservation of our soil, water and biological resources on private land. The government should work with the Regional Administration to adapt water quality standards that rely on the best science and implementation of best management practices.

We call for the review or elimination of outdated laws that hamper the adaptation of agriculture to the demands and opportunities of a new century. Regional restrictions on farm, livestock and dairy products capable of driving up consumer prices and penalizing productive farmers will be discouraged. In order to ensure a competitive market, accurate and open reporting of farm, livestock and dairy products will be required by law.

There is much more to rural Guyana than farming, animal husbandry, and forestry. The kind of economic development that generates family-sustaining jobs is critical to small towns and rural communities. We recognize the special challenges they face in working for good schools, accessible health care, decent housing, safe drinking water and waste disposal, and serviceable transportation. The government should be an active partner with local entities in that process, especially in advancing the availability of the Internet and modern telecommunications technology in rural Guyana. This is an enabler to the agrarian revolution.

Pillar 22

Energy and Infrastructure

The challenge with energy and infrastructure delivery in Guyana is the over centralization of such services by the government planners. To combat this will require a national energy and infrastructure strategy — and a URP Administration will work with the national assembly to put in place the Infrastructure that will:

- Take an objective look at Hydro Power that will benefit Guyana current energy supply needs and projected need for the next generation.
- In the short term introduce first time small-scale

energy lease permits to encourage regulated small business investment in the importation and marketing of small quantities of the energy products to communities.

- Expand the tax credit for renewable energy sources to include the establishment of Solar Farms in hinterland areas as an immediate relief for supply of energy to ensure industrial growth. We affirm that a decentralization of the nation's energy industry is the key to efficient and competitive delivery of such services to the people.

Pillar 23

TRANSPORTATION, ROAD, RAILWAY AND BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE:

Commerce is at the heart of our economy, and the transportation infrastructure is its main artery. Without safe and efficient transport, the economy declines. Maintaining that vital infrastructure has always been, in part, a government responsibility, and the URP will ensure this happens. The URP will undertake a strategy that will enable a Trans-Regional Roadway and Railroad across the length and breadth of Guyana. Starting with the most need areas

which will allow once again the internal exchange of goods and produces to consumers in all ten administrative regions, stretching to hinterland waterways and rivers. The rail and roads network will be complemented with Aviation measures which will include the building of airstrip at strategic locations. URP will champion investment in transportation assets as a cornerstone of the economy and, indeed, as a national way of life.



Pillar 24:

GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE - PRINCIPLE LEADERSHIP

In a URP led government, Guyanese have a good cause to be optimistic. This generation can adapt Guyana to thrive amid great change — change in the economy, infrastructure delivery, domestic law enforcement, the political structure, technology, and the military.

The URP strategy is simple. It is a strategy that recalls traditional truths about power and ideals and applies them to networked marketplaces, modern diplomacy and the high-tech arena. A URP administration will use power wisely, set priorities, craft needed institutions of openness and freedom, and invest in the future. A URP Administration will encourage a unity of national governance that has so long been absent. We see a confident Guyana united in the fellowship of who lead us. We envision the restoration of a respected Guyana leadership firmly grounded in a distinctly Guyana nationalism.

Trust, pride, and respect: we pledge to restore these qualities to the way Guyanese view their government. It is the most important tasks and reflects the overwhelming desire of our citizens for fundamental change in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

The templates to make this happen are readily available, in the visionary leadership to open a new era of creativity and freedom, making government citizen-centered, results-oriented, and, where possible, entrepreneur-based. This will usher sound management of public resources leading to unprecedented surpluses. Services will be improved. Waste will be reduced. Taxes will be minimized.

We shall encourage government and local government partnerships to create a vibrant Guyana: providing information and services to the public via the

Internet. Citizens can conduct business with government by going on-line instead of wasting hours in-line. We will e-power citizens at all levels of government. And we will require government agencies to use on-line practices to deal with the masses.

The URP leadership recognizes that the Guyana citizenry has suffered abuse, intrusion and bullying at the hands of the government or its organs, which continue unabated to this day. We, therefore, commit to provide structural and Constitutional protection for the Guyanese people against government abuse, intrusion and bullying.

Under the URP, the government must adapt to the challenges of the new era. There are too many departments and agencies with competing programs that waste resources and fail to deliver the goods: numerous economic development programs, countless education programs in many different agencies at exorbitant cost to the nation and numerous job training programmes in many different agencies.

We intend to downsize government making ministers do what they are supposed to do, simply by ensuring that all agencies bring about accountability.

A URP led Administration will run the government much like a responsive and efficient organization. Bureaucracy will be reduced and condensed in size, beginning at its upper echelons, and downwards throughout its strata. If public services can be delivered more efficiently and less expensively through the private sector, they will be privatized. A URP government will establish accountability, reward performance, put civility and customer focus back into the civil and public services, and restore dignity and ethics to the Public Service.

Pillar 25

Constitutional & Political Reform

The Guyana Constitution, in spite of all its many shortfalls, does guarantee indispensable democratic freedoms of speech, press, and association, and, the right to petition our government. The URP affirms that any regulation of the political process must not infringe upon the rights of the people to full participation in the political process. The principal

cure for the ills of democracy is greater participation in the political process by more citizens.

Preserve the right of every individual and all groups — whether for us or against us — to express their opinions and advocate their issues. We will not allow any arm of government to restrict this constitutionally guaranteed right.

Pillar 26

A Military for the Twenty-First Century

A strong and well-trained Guyana military is the best guarantee of peace with our neighbors. It is the shield of freedom, safety, and prosperity. Only a President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, can ensure that our military stands ready to defend Guyana and triumph against any opposition.

The URP led Government will commit to rebuilding the Guyana military maintaining a non-political, professional

player in the nation's war against crime and drug trafficking.

We will turn the military into a real fighting force with highly active professional component.

The professional component will be used as an organized and coordinated resource to leap frog Guyana into key technologies of interest to the military and relevant to its objectives.

A URP government will pursue initiatives to transform Guyana's defense capabilities for the information age, ensuring that Guyana armed forces remain paramount against emerging dangers. URP believes that in order to succeed as a nation, we must align our military power with the strengths of the Guyana society and vice versa, developing and sharing skills, technology, and the integration of fast-paced systems into our mutual networks. Both civil and military resources must have a shared and coordinated goal. We can no longer afford a military, which is entirely parasitic to the society. While we dare not forget that the strength of the military lies with the combat soldier, sailor, and airman, we must not also forget that technology is now the decisive ace in modern warfare. This is our vision of the New Military in the New Guyana.

In general, Guyanese are not proud of their current armed forces. The military faces growing problems in readiness and morale, and it is not clear that they are prepared for the threats of the future.

The Guyana military under the leadership of a URP government will focus on its most demanding task — fighting and winning in combat. Readiness prevents wars. Also, by being prepared for this most exacting mission with an un-

common sense of urgency, our military will know, unlike today, that its loyalty and self-sacrifice have meaning and purpose. We will challenge Guyana's military leaders to envision a new architecture of Guyana defense for decades to come. One that will balance the need to prepare for information age battles while keeping our conventional fighting skills second to none in the South America.

In the twenty-first century Guyana's forces must be agile, lethal, readily deployable, and require a minimum of logistical support. They must also be fully prepared for possible enemy use of weapons of mass destruction. To build such a military forces will require foresight and steadfast commitment. We must be willing to act now to give the next generation of Guyanese what they will need to protect our country. This will also require a new spirit of innovation. URP believes that our military leaders will welcome and meet these challenges. To demonstrate that a new approach to the nation's defense can shape the future with new concepts, new strategies, and new resolve.

URP will strengthen its Reserve Unit as an important component of the nation's military readiness, and we will maintain their strength in each Region. Their role as citizen soldiers is to link every community in the country with the cause of national security. We support the advancement of women in the military and their exemption from ground combat units. By the policies we have enumerated so far, we will put renewed emphasis on encouraging the best and brightest of our young people to join our armed forces.

Pillar 27

Sports-based youth development Under a URP Government

Sport under a United Republican Party (URP) Government will not only focus on development of sport facilities for the various disciplines of sports; massive emphasis will be placed on developing the individuals and their capabilities to effectively ensure that Guyana as a country is in the mix in relations to sport at the national, regional and international levels.

URP believe that while we need to improve facilities for sport in Guyana in terms of building conveniences, parallel emphasis must be given to the development and nurturing a modern conceptual framework in which "sports-based youth development programs" are implemented. Sports-based youth development programs are out-of-school-time programs that will be used in a number of sport disciplines to facilitate learning and life skill development in youth starting from nursery.

Youths in Guyana under a URP Government will be strategically identified in terms of their abilities to perform in specific disciplines at an early age.

Through a well-structured youth education development program developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, students in Primary, Secondary and at the Tertiary levels will be given the opportunity to excel in sports and at the same time be assured that their are academically fortified as well as equipped with the skills necessary to perform at the top of their game.

A URP Government will summon the human resource skills of retired sportsmen and women, not only in Guyana but will draw from the pool of expertise regionally and internationally, to ensure that the proficiencies of sports in Guyana reach and maintain international standards. A URP Government will give special privileges and tax breaks to sports men and women who have represented Guyana internationally. House and land will be provided for these athletes, and business will be developed within the sports arena to ensure the commercialization of their respective disciplines.

HEAD OFFICE

48 South New Road, Vreed-en-Hoop, West Coast, Demerara
Office: 254-0078 / 254-1799 Cell: 651-3825 or 662-4555

Email: vbandhu@aol.com

Website: www.urp.org FB: United Republican Party/

Guyana Twitter: @guyanaurp

Internet Radio: www.urp.fastcast4u.com