Guyana is at a breaking point after twenty three years of the PPP one party rule and abuse. Guyana, today, has become a criminalised state. Violent crimes such as arson, armed robberies, domestic abuse, banditry, piracy, contract killings and murders, has scarred our society. Poverty and unemployment have created an army of beggars, drug addicts, destitute people, wandering young people and street children. University graduates, talented teachers, nurses and thousands of ordinary citizens race to migrate in droves from their homeland.

IT IS TIME TO MAKE THAT CHANGE!
**2015 Year of Democratic Renewal**

Guyana's 'Year of democratic renewal' dawns on 1st January 2015.

Guyanese in 2015 will have an opportunity to choose a new government in the forthcoming general and regional elections. The choices facing the nation are clear.

Our choice will be between a continuation of the 'winner-takes-all' approach to governance in Guyana. Our choice will be between new councillors in local government elections or enduring further incapacitating central government control of our towns and neighbourhoods.

Guyanese, far too frequently in 2014, have had to protest against the PPP/C's Administration's dictatorial prorogation of Parliament and its refusal to hold local government elections. We have had to demand investigations into police torture. We have had to demand the payment of 'living' wages for our workers, improved schools for our children, enhanced social protection for senior citizens and safer roads for everyone.

We have had to bear the brunt of the high rate of crime including armed robberies, arson, interpersonal violence, murder, piracy, rapes, fatal road accidents and trafficking in persons. We have suffered most from the high cost of living, high level of unemployment and high rate of migration. These have all taken a toll on our families and our quality of life.

We deserve a society in which we could look forward to living in safety, to working for 'living wages' to cope with the cost of living and to enjoying adequate social protection in our old age.

2015 must be a 'Year of democratic renewal.' APNU is prepared to participate with political and social partners in a government of national unity to make this a reality. Such a government will aim at improving educational standards for our children, providing jobs for our young people, protecting our women and girl children from criminal violence and ensuring the country is safe for all.

Let us vote to remove the PPP/C from office, install a government of national unity and work together towards providing "a Good Life for all Guyanese."

Best wishes for a happy new year to everyone!

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**Remembering Dr. King**

Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968) was an American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. He is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs.

He was born Michael King but his father, Martin Luther King, Sr., changed his name in honor of the German reformer Martin Luther. A Baptist minister, King became a civil rights activist early in his career. He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957, serving as its first president.

On October 14, 1964, King received the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through nonviolence. In 1965, he and the SCLC helped to organize the Selma to Montgomery marches and the following year, he took the movement north to Chicago to work on segregated housing. In the final years of his life, King expanded his focus to include poverty and speak against the Vietnam War, alienating many of his liberal allies with a 1967 speech titled "Beyond Vietnam".

In 1968, King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the Poor People's Campaign, when he was assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee. His death was followed by riots in many U.S. cities. Allegations that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of killing King, had been framed or acted in concert with government agents persisted for decades after the shooting.

King was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a holiday in numerous cities and states beginning in 1971, and as a U.S. federal holiday in 1986. Hundreds of streets in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor. In addition, a county was rededicated in his honor. A memorial statue on the National Mall was opened to the public in 2011.
POLITICS

An APNU-led Government will ensure there is local democracy

The expectation of the framers of the 1980 Constitution in relation to the new system of local government was to create self-reliant, productive and prosperous communities of people. In this regard, Hugh Desmond Hoyte who led the debate in Parliament on the new local government system was pellucid in his presentation. He was forthright; his language was unambiguous. He said:

“A local authority will have power to do anything which it considers necessary for the development of its area and the welfare of its people. It can, since it has a duty for economic development, become involved in economic activities. There will be no inhibition on the power of a local authority to become involved in economic or other activities. This new system with its requirements of participation, involvement and self-management, will enable the production forces in the region to become liberated, for it will generate local enthusiasm, it will stimulate local initiatives and will contribute powerfully to the real development of the area.”

It can be seen, therefore, that the ten regional democratic councils and their various “sub-divisions” (municipalities and neighborhood councils), have a clearly defined mandate to administer and manage their respective areas. These local democratic organs are not meant to be appendages or creatures of the central government as is the current practice; their authority is embedded and concretized in the constitution. Article 75 guarantees their “autonomy”; their duties and responsibilities are enshrined in the fundamental law of the State. They are not left to chance and are not left to be promulgated by inferior legislation.

Current legislation is unambiguous as to the duties of local democratic organs. Among these are the following: to maintain and protect public property; to protect and improve the physical environment; to improve working and living conditions; to stimulate economic activities and improve production and efficiency; to promote the social and cultural life of the people; to raise the level of civic consciousness; to preserve law and order; to safeguard the rights of the people; and to give advice, encouragement and support to the people in their daily activities and to give leadership by example. [Act 12/1980 and Cap. 28:09, Laws of Guyana]

Thirty four years have passed since the new local government system was introduced but it is yet to be operationalized. The absence of this results in the central government remaining in effect, the sole giver of all things. It creates a situation whereby general elections become a divisive event in national life, given the ethnic configuration of the country and entrenched voter alignments along racial lines. Eighty two centers of governmental authority, instead of one, will result in not only more efficient management of communities, leading to cleaner, more prosperous and safer communities but will over time, help to eliminate the ethnic tension that traditionally accompanies general elections with its winner-takes-all makeup. Within such a framework, politicians vying for elected offices will have to bring their support on the basis of irrelevant considerations such as racial similarity. Social cohesion which has eluded Guyana for more than one hundred and seventy five years is more likely to become a reality. Rapid progress and real human development will be the end result.

Over two years ago, December 2012, Minister of Agriculture Dr. Leslie Ramsonamy boasted to members of the media that the $3.6 Billion Hope Dochfour canal project would be completed on the extended deadline of May-June 2013. It is now January 2015 and the multi-billion dollar project is still to be completed. The project has involved the excavation of the 10.3km long canal from the East Demerara Water Conservancy to the coastal spill off at the other end of the canal.

The National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) is the agency responsible for the excavation of the canal. The other three components: a three gated conservancy head regulator; the 300 feet components: a three gated conservancy head regulator; the 300 feet...
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A GOOD LIFE FOR ALL

David Granger's Leadership will guarantee a good life for all Military Veterans

Leader of the Opposition Brigadier David Granger has assured military that under his leadership, they can be assured of a good life. Brigadier Granger was at the time addressing the annual Christmas luncheon of the Guyana Veterans Legion. The Guyana Veterans Legion is made up of retired servicemen and women from the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana People's Militia and the Guyana National Service. In his address to the more than 200 retired servicemen and women, Brigadier Granger said that under his leadership Veterans would be guaranteed a good life. He referred to a motion that he piloted in the National Assembly calling for a National Veterans Commission, and said that A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) was committed to the following:

Veterans' Commission: APNU will pass a 'Veterans Act' in Parliament and establish a permanent, full-time Commission to administer veterans' affairs.

Veterans' benefits: APNU will arrange for discounts on the cost of food and medicine at commercial enterprises and will provide books, snacks, transport and uniforms for veteran's children to go to school.

Veterans' pensions: APNU will increase the pensions of all veterans and lower the cost-of-living by reducing the value-added-tax on essential goods.

Veterans' Trust: APNU will provide finance for a Trust which will assist veterans to gain access to land for housing and farming; continuing education and skills training; Employment; small enterprise development and welfare.

Age of retirement: APNU will review the age of retirement of all military personnel to allow for longer, satisfying and successful careers.

Also present at this function was APNU's General Secretary Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Joseph Harmon.

PNCR Leader, Brigadier David Granger addresses Veterans at their annual Christmas Luncheon.

More pictures from APNU's outreach to Region No. 9

Granger emphasises APNU's one laptop per teacher policy

Leader of the People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR) and Chairman of A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) Brigadier David Granger on Sunday 18th January presented a computer to the headmistress of the St. Ignatius Secondary School, Region No. 9 to emphasise his Partnership’s ‘One Laptop Per Teacher’ policy.

Brigadier Granger, addressing a rally of hundreds of residents of Lethem, Tabatinga, St Ignatius, Kumu, Moco-Moco and Quarrie, maintained that education was the way to promote human development in the vast Rupununi (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo) Region. Education, however, had to be led by a corps of dedicated teachers and supported by easy access to the information superhighway.

Brigadier Granger, describing internet access as ‘an entitlement’ for everyone rather than a privilege for a rich elite, promised greater communications coverage for mobile telephones and the internet throughout the Region. He iterated an earlier campaign promise to make every state and government building and institution - airport, court, hospital, library, office, police station and school - an internet ‘hotspot’ in order to facilitate telecommunications.

Brigadier Granger criticised the People’s Progressive Party/Civic’s ‘One Laptop Per Family’ project as an expensive misconception that did not consider the real needs of teachers for research, administration, communication and preparation of lesson plans and reports. He promised that an APNU administration would also improve distance learning for Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE) student teachers and University of Guyana (UG) undergraduates in the Rupununi, actually Guyana’s largest region.

NEW NATION
APNU’s outreach to Region No. 9

An APNU Team which included the Leader of the PNCR, Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of APNU, Hon. Brigadier David Granger recently completed an outreach to the Upper Takatu - Upper Essequibo Region, Region No. 9 from Friday 16th January to Monday 19th January 2015. Below are some pictures of the visit.
REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Business Community pledge Support for APNU

During his recent trip to the Upper Takatu-Upper Essequibo Region, Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Brigadier David Granger met with members of the business community, religious leaders and other members of civil society. At the meeting which was well attended those in attendance told Brigadier Granger that their support for A Partnership for National Unity was guaranteed and pledged to work closely with APNU to ensure success at the upcoming elections.

Other engagements in several villages all across the Rupununi Savannahs were highly successful. In all the communities visited residents indicated that they admired the approach and proposals for the development of the Upper Takatu-Upper Essequibo Region which were put forward by Brigadier Granger and the APNU.

The four days of meetings, outreach culminated with a massive rally at the Lethem Airport Square. Speakers there included APNU Member of Parliament, Mr. Sydney Allicock, APNU Parliamentary Chief-Whip, Ms. Amna Ally and Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of APNU, Brigadier David Arthur Granger.

Lethem welcomes Brigadier David Granger to Region No. 9
Chairman of APNU, Brigadier David Arthur Granger.

Lethem to become a town

Leader of the People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR) and Chairman of A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) Brigadier David Granger has repeated his pledge to residents of the Lethem to make their ‘settlement’ into a full-fledged ‘town’ under an APNU administration within one year of the next general and regional elections.

Brigadier Granger pointed out that the Rupununi - at over 58,000 km² - was larger than Costa Rica and six times the size of Puerto Rico. It is the largest region the country yet it did not possess a single town. He met residents of Tabatinga on the outskirts of Lethem who complained about land allocation, housing, drug-trafficking, solid waste disposal, street lighting, poor roads, high electricity tariffs, poor public services, unemployment, traffic confusion involving foreigners driving on the ‘wrong’ side and other matters.

Brigadier Granger, reacting to the residents’ complaints, asserted that Lethem was fully-qualified to be a town like Anna Regina, Rose Hall and other places. Lethem was the centre of administration of a vast region and the seat of the Regional Democratic Council (RDC). Lethem already had its own aerodrome, banks, electricity and water supply, hospital, hotels, magistrate’s court, military and police stations, port-of-entry, churches, schools supermarkets, hardware stores and other amenities. There was nothing, except the resistance of the People’s Progressive Party Civic government, to prevent Lethem from becoming a town.

He decried the government’s tendency to regard the Rupununi as a backward border region. The government had no right to obstruct the election of a municipal council for Lethem. Brigadier promised that an APNU administration would improve governance in what is actually Guyana’s largest region. He committed A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) to holding municipal and local government elections and to establishing Lethem as a town with its own freely-elected mayor and town councilors. This, he said, was the fastest and surest way to encourage the commercial and economic development of the Region.

“Lethem to be made into a full-fledged ‘town’ under an APNU Administration”
NEW NATION

APNU NEEDS YOU
A Partnership for National Unity

HELP SAVE GUYANA!
Volunteer Now and Help!

We are calling all Guyanese under age 35; Elections 2015 is all about you. It is about your life and your future, and it will be decided by what you do.

After more than 23 years, the PPP has failed you and they have failed Guyana. It is time for Change! APNU has a plan to rebuild Guyana and give every young person, a first class education, a good paying job, and a bright future. But we need help. We need you. We need young people working with us as we fight for that bright future. We need youth leaders, helpers and volunteers to join our Army for Change. We need you.

After more than 23 years the PPP is fighting to STAY in POWER. They are not fighting for you; you already know that; after being neglected for almost all of your life.

We need volunteers in every village, in every town, in the Diaspora, where ever you are, to come and join our team.

We ask you to visit our website at www.apnuguyana.org/volunteer and sign up to be part of the team that will transform Guyana, or you can call us at 592 231 2641-4 or 592 225 7855. We need all the help we can get for this will NOT be an easy task, remember the PPP ‘Big-shots’ are fighting to maintain their Pradoville lifestyle of wealth and privilege.

APNU is fighting for you and we need you not just to join the fight, but to LEAD.

Let us together work to put an end to One Party Rule, create a Government of National Unity and make our country’s motto real - One People One Nation One Destiny

Volunteer Now. Go to www.apnuguyana.org/volunteer or Give us a call today

Did you know:

That A Partnership for National UNITY (APNU) is committed to the establishment of a Government of National Unity, which would have as its priority (not in order of priority):
- Constitutional and institutional reforms necessary for the realization of shared governance;
- National reconciliation;
- The establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
- The reform of the state, including the recommendations of the Disciplined Forces Commission;
- The establishment of the National Broadcasting Authority and legislation to ensure not only access to but the Freedom of Access to Information;
- The establishment of a Public Procurement Commission;
- The reconstruction of the Integrity Commission;
- The appointment of the Human Rights Commission and the reconstruction of the Ethnic Relations Commission;
- The implementation of agreed Local Government Reforms and the holding of Local Government Elections;
- The reform of the system of Taxation;
- A Partnership with youth to ensure their full involvement and participation in decision making;
- The reconstruction of the society and the economy;
- The forensic auditing of State organizations; and
- Infrastructure development including energy, communication and water management.

VOTE APNU

On the 24th January 2015, the African (KaMaatic) Organisations and Communities of Guyana launched our United Nations’ International Decade for the People of African Descent at the Parade Ground, Georgetown, Demerara.

The main objective of the International Decade is to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The decade will provide an opportunity to recognize the significant contribution made by people of African descent to our societies and to propose concrete measures to promote their full inclusion and to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Decade shall focus on the following objectives:
- To strengthen national, regional and international action and cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society;
- To promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies; and
- To adopt and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and to ensure their full and effective implementation.

The International Decade will enable the United Nations, Member States, civil society and all other relevant actors to join with people of African descent and take effective measures for the implementation of the programme of activities in the spirit of recognition, justice and development.

LEGAL CORNER

Know Your RIGHTS

There are several activities which, in order for them to be lawful, require licencing. The following are some areas for which licences must be obtained. Motor Vehicle Drivers. The law stipulates that all motor vehicles must be registered and licensed. Charges are levied for road licences annually. Licence fees are due on the 1st day of January, of each year or at the time of registration of a new vehicle. This period is usually extended to February and March pending the presentation of the National Budget. It is an offence to drive an unlicensed vehicle. An application for a road licence must be made to the licensing officer at the Licence Revenue Office. When applying for a licence, a certificate of registration, a certificate of fitness and at least third party insurance for the vehicle must be produced. The licence specifies the purpose for which the vehicle is licenced. It is an offence to use the vehicle for purposes other than for which it is licenced as the licence would be void. It also cannot be used in respect of another vehicle. The licence usually states the registration number of the vehicle.

Transfer: Should the licence not be transferred to the new owner, the new owner must ensure that the vehicle is licenced.

Drivers: It is against the law to drive a motor vehicle on a road without holding a valid driver’s licence. It is also an offence to employ a person to drive who does not have a valid driver’s licence. At all times a driver must be able to produce, on request by a police officer his/her valid driver’s licence.

Provisional Drivers: A provisional licence must be obtained during the course of a person being trained to drive a motor vehicle. A provisional driver should always be accompanied by a registered driver.

Next Edition we will continue to focus on Licences and permits. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

People’s National Congress Reform, Congress Place, Sophia, Georgetown. Tel: (592) 225-7852-5